THE LABOR NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

Justice for the Worker
Constructive Cooperation
and
A Square Deal for the Employer

VOL. 3, NO. 8 — AUGUSTA, MAINE, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1935 — PRICE 5 CENTS

SALES TAX SYSTEM WRONG IN PRINCIPLE DECLARES BURGESS

Legislative Agent for Maine State Federation of Labor Says Sales Tax is un-American and Inconsistent With Democratic Form of Government in State.

Imposition of Sales Tax Would Only Add to Burdens Suffered During Past Four Years of Hardships Due to the Depression—Adoption Would Make It Easy for Politicians to Boost Rates to Make Up Discrepancies in Other Sources.

Labor's part on the Sales Tax system which is now under consideration at the State House, was clearly and concisely stated at a hearing held last week, by Clarence R. Burgess, legislative representative for the Maine State Federation of Labor.

Mr. Burgess' remarks in opposition to the proposal follow in full;

"Labor views with feelings of deep apprehension, the attempt of the advocates of sales tax legislation to transfer the burden of taxation from the wealth of the nation to the masses of the people. We have consistently held that sales tax legislation is un-American and inconsistent with our Democratic form of government. The issue is clearly drawn. The question is, shall the wealth of the nation bear its proper share of the tax burden or shall it be transferred through the enactment of the sales tax to the homes, the firesides, the earnings and the lives of the poor. The masses of the people, many of them are forced to forego the bare necessities of life.

"The theory upon which our tax structure has been erected provides for the imposition of taxes upon the wealth of the state, and upon those who are best able to pay. The ability to pay taxes rather than opportunity to collect should govern our legislature in the enactment of tax legislation. The cost of government should rest more heavily upon those who receive the greatest benefits upon accumulated wealth, upon accumulated earnings and upon those whose earnings and incomes are inadequate to maintain the American standard of living should be protected from the imposition of the sales tax. The sales tax is a contradiction to this theory because, in operation it would collect from the poor and unfortunate; those who are unable to pay and who ought to be relieved, so far as possible, from any burden of additional taxes.

Brunt of Four Years of Depression

"Labor has bourne the brunt of a four year depression and at the present time it is undergoing continued

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"GET DOWN TO REAL BUSINESS, PRACTICE SOBRIETY, ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY AND MAKE YOUR LOCAL 100 P. C. STRONG"

Important Points Brought Out in Remarks of Albert Finnemore, Newly-Elected President of Maine Textile Council, at Meeting Last Saturday—Vigorous Talks by Hebert and Poirier—Establish Honor Roll—Next Meeting in Biddeford.

In Albert Fillemore, the Maine Textile Council has a new president who, judging from his acceptance speech at the meeting held in Pittsfield last Saturday, not only indicates that the work so well started by his predecessor will be vigorously carried on, but with added determination to make the organization one of the best of its kind in the country.

Admonishing the more than 200 delegates and visitors present to consolidate their efforts in organizing activities, and by this means bring their local unions up to the 100 per cent mark, President Finnemore said this can be accomplished if all will get down to business and carry on the work of their respective organizations with a determination to win.

"When the more than 600,000 textile workers answered the call for the general strike last September, they did so with a determination to remedy working conditions that had become intolerable. Unfortunately, there were some who expected that this remedy would be immediately effective. They did not count on the tremendous opposition that was forthcoming from mill owners.

"Although these had pledged themselves to abide by the terms singled out by President Roosevelt to reinstate all strikers without discrimination as a means of settlement of the general strike, they took advantage of all means at their command to violate the agreement by selecting those most active during the strike as their victims.

Sobriety Strong Factor in Unionism

"In all cases where members have demonstrated the right kind of stamina and backed their activities with a strong and determined phalanx little difficulty was experienced in not only having our members reinstated, but were successful in materially improving their conditions.

"I have watched things pretty closely since I became active in this great move[illegible] of ours in the State of [illegible]

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Write Senators Urging Them to Support Wage Rate Bill

Fears Exist That Compromise on Prevailing Wage Rate Clause May Prove Detrimental to Mechanics Employed on Private Construction Work—Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., Urges Immediate Action.

Wire or write your Senator today! Urge them to vote to retain Senator McCarran's amendment to insert the prevailing wage rate clause in the $4,800,000,000 appropriation to be made by the government for public works. Don't—delay! Do it today!

This was the appeal broadcast by the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., including mechanics throughout the land to enter a solemn protest against any compromise that would in any way affect the prevailing wage clause in the appropriation bill, and read at a meeting of the executive board of the Central Labor Union, held last evening.

There is danger that the compromise move, which it was announced recently was likely as a means of passing the measure to satisfy the President, greatly endangers the existing prevailing wage rates on private construction work.

This was clearly pointed out by delegates representing building trades unions who were present at the meeting, in urgent means to be taken to reach all building mechanics and urge them to write United States Senators Walsh and Coolidge to oppose any compromise that does not include the prevailing wage rate clause as provided for in Senator McCarran's amendment.

"AS MAINE GOES, SO GOES THE COUNTRY", APPLIES NOT ONLY TO POLITICS BUT ALSO AS A BUSINESS BAROMETER

Labor News Scribe, in Tour of Goodly Portion of State During Month, Sees Evidence of Great Improvement in Maine's Major Industries—Leaders in Business and Labor Activities Enthusiastic Over Prospects.

By RAYMOND R. BEAUDRY

As far as politics is concerned, the old saying: "As Maine Goes, So Goes the Country," is a true one, as was well demonstrated by the State elections of last year and for many years past. But—how many have thought of applying the same rule in regard to business improvement? Well, in the opinion of this writer, one may with reverence to the old saying, in which there is more truth than fiction, when discussing the general upward trend of industry and business in these United States.

From comments heard by leaders in the industrial, business and labor activities of Maine in a recent tour of principal cities and towns, there is every indication that Maine is "turning the corner" from a long siege of depression to the brighter side of more prosperous times. And, let's hope that this yardstick can be applied soon to all parts of the country.

Revival of Business in Paper Mills

In Bangor, one gets facts that show that 1935 has seen the greatest number of men employed in lumber camps throughout the State and that further on the paper mills are experiencing a revival of business. Plants in this section and down to Rumford, are humming so to speak. This illustration is borne out in some measure of efforts to get consumers to buy "American made papers", whether it be newsprint magazine, catalogue or writing papers.

Going towards Waterville, Augusta and Lewiston it is a great sight to see the vast mills of Maine brightly illuminated at night, for the shining light means that employment is being provided for more people and that thousands of Maine households which long suffered from "hard times" are once again self sustaining, even

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PULP, SULPHITE AND PAPER MILL WORKERS ADD PACIFIC COAST MAN TO UNION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

Principal among important matters transacted at the annual convention of the Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers of the United States and Canada, held in Buffalo last week, was extension of its activities to the Pacific Coast by the addition of a seventh vice-president, who will devote his entire time to organization work in that district.

The new vice-president is John Sherman of Port Angeles, Wash. The extensive campaign conducted by the Brotherhood last year, through Vice-President Herbert W. Sullivan, resulted in the formation of a goodly number of locals with thousands of members in all paper manufacturing districts on the Pacific Coast, and according to reports at the convention, aside from building up strong and formidable organizations, good progress has been made in stabilizing wages and working conditions.

The only change in the choice of officers, aside from the addition of a seventh vice-president, was the election of Raymond Richards of Wisconsin Rapids as sixth vice-president, to succeed Harry Beach of Iroquois Falls, Ontario, who declined nomination for re-election.

There were 71 delegates present, aside from the general officers, which brought the total number present, representing as many local organizations, to 85, and the convention was regarded as one of the best and largest in attendance since pre-depression times.

Among the most important resolutions adopted was the endorsement of the stand taken by the American Federation of Labor on the McCarran amendment for prevailing wage rates in the Administration's relief measure.

Resolutions relative to NRA codes, the newsprint situation and other important matters were discussed at length, and methods were adopted for the continuation of agitation to improve conditions in this industry.

Reports of delegates representing Maine locals told of activities carried on during the past year in cooperation with all interested in the newsprint

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Acrimonious Debate Between a General And a Cleric

Both General Johnson and Father Coughlin Have Done a Valuable Service to Their Country—Present Controversy Has No Place on Radio.

Whatever may be said, pro or con, as to the individual merits of the main contestants, General Johnson and Father Coughlin, the radio controversy has now descended to unseemly depths.

One would scarcely credit that two such men could be induced to flout the ordinary conventions of good breeding and mutual restraint to indulge in a flood of billingsgate such as is now proceeding over the radio. Indeed, it is a fair question if both should not be ruled off the air until such time as a truce may be agreed upon. The spectacle is anything but edifying to the public. It engenders dangerous class and dehominational feeling and it is little short of a public scandal, both here and abroad.

Politics is a field of warfare! Let those who have no stomach for battle and the ability to stand strong blows, enter thereupon. But, a contest of acrimonious debate between a general and a cleric is at once absurd and unseemly from its very nature. The contestants are mutually inhibited from attacking each other from the fact of their fundamentally different professions.

Both men have done some valuable service to their country. But they will do a still better service by fighting the depression instead of combatting each other in this questionable public fashion.

Besides the radio listeners may have other preferences than that of listening to acrimonious personal recriminations? The radio is being debauched. Let us restore it to its proper and natural function by banning personal attacks of this kind, no matter whom the exalted principals may happen to be.

Better Housing Program a Splendid Proposition, Says Augusta Mayor

Emphasizing the fact that modernization and repairs are now possible for many property holders through new credit plans as opened up by the National Housing Act, Mayor Percy L. Payne of Augusta said a few days ago that the opportunities now offered to improve and repair property have created an entirely new proposition as far as the case of financing is concerned than ever before.

"For years, it has been possible to purchase the things that go into the house, such as furniture, radios, refrigerators and other things on the installment plan," Mayor Payne is quoted as having said, "but this is the first time that liberal installment credit has been extended to cover all types of real property improvements.

"Every repair project undertaken now will help to put some worthy property owner," he said, and referred to the Better Housing program as a good business proposition, and urged all who have repairs to be made to do so now, and by this means not only save money but assist unemployed building mechanics to secure work.

Rockland Post Office to Be of New England Granite Construction

There is no better building stone on earth than New England granite. Yet, the strangle hold which western limestone has had upon government buildings has only recently been shaken loose so as to permit granite to be used in the construction of Federal buildings in the various cities and towns in New England.

However, the tide has turned, thanks to New England Senators and Representatives in Congress. One result of this effort is to be seen in the announcement that the Rockland, Me., Post Office will be constructed of granite. This marks the end of a long struggle in which the element of cheapness, not of inferior stone has held up the job for many months.

The United States Treasury Department, by the way, does not seem any too partial to New England granite, but in this case it yielded the point, at the urgent representations of Congressman Moran.

The Togus Soldiers' Home was another instance where the utilization of New England granite was secured only after persistent effort. As matters now stand, both local labor and local materials will be used on the above projects. This is protection for the home market.

Silk Union Elects Organizer

The American Federation of Silk Workers in the Paterson, N. J., district elected Alex Williams as general organizer. He defeated Sarkis Phillian, former organizer of the Narrow Fabrics department.

It will be greatly appreciated, if when making purchases from our advertisers, you will please mention The Labor News.

So-Called Friends in Legislature Sponsor Measures Vesting Police With Powers Similar to Those in Operation in Soviet Russia

Workers' Attention is Called to the Importance of Closely Watching Tactics of These Enemies of the People and Prepare to Wage Opposition When Aspiring to Further Political Honors—"Yellow Dog" Contracts Outlawed Through Passage of Bill Strongly Opposed by Associated Industries.

By CLARENCE R. BURGESS, Secretary and Legislative Agent, Maine State Federation of Labor.

The past two weeks the Legislature group of our citizens and the least able to resist such encroachments of their rights.

For instance, the sales tax bill, which needs no explanation as all have made themselves familiar with the iniquity of this method of taxation, met with strong opposition not only from organized Labor but the Grange and merchants of Maine.

A Pernicious Piece of Legislation

Another bill, while perhaps not directly aimed at the workers, would permit every sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, city or deputy marshal, police officer or member of the State Highway Police to examine all persons whom they might have reason to suspect of unlawful design, and demand of them their business abroad and whither they are going, and to arrest such persons as do not give a satisfactory account of themselves, and safely keep them in imprisonment for a period not exceeding 24 hours; and furthermore, that no action shall

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OLDTOWN MILL OVERSEER GROWLED LIKE LION BUT CALMED DOWN AFTER GRILLING ADMINISTERED BY VICE-PRES. RIVIERE

Testimony Offered to Prove Discharged Workers in Sangerville Were Undesirable, Incompetent and Trouble Makers, at Hearing Before Government Conciliator, is "Punched Full of Holes" by U. T. W. of A. Official.

According to George Jabar, general organizer for the United Textile Workers of America, the three days hearing in Sangerville to determine the status of members of the T. W. who were discriminated against by being refused employment or alleged incompetency, being undesirable and trouble makers because of participation in the general strike, proved one of the most important and interesting of all hearings held in the State of Maine.

Representing the aggrieved members of Local 2322 was General Vice-President Horace A. Riviere, who, although confronted with a legal adversary who is considered a top-notcher in the State's legal fraternity, amazed all present by the suave, methodical and convincing manner in which he questioned those who testified for the company.

The hearing was made intensely interesting by several tiffs between Attorney Gould, counsel for the company, and Mr. Riviere. This seemed to have little effect on the latter whose ready wit averted many a tense moment. On one occasion, Gould got all riled up and exploded with the statement that he was "not going to be bulldozed by a bulldozer". To this, Mr. Riviere just grinned, feeling that he had won at strong point by permitting his adversary to become excited, and all at sea as to where he was at. Later in the day, the lawyer apologized to Mr. Riviere for having made this statement.

The company's star witness was the overseer of the weaving department, who, when first questioned by Mr. Riviere, growled like a lion, with the evident purpose of making an impression which he thought would belittle the efforts of his questioner. This failed, however, as within a short time his growling lion tactics became as docile as the proverbial lamb.

The overseer's testimony was very erratic, stating at times, under Mr. Riviere's cross-questioning, that the discharged workers were incompetent while in another breath he said they were all right. He appeared to be greatly relieved when his part of the performance was terminated.

Witnesses introduced by the company in an attempt to prove that the company union formed was purely voluntary on the part of the employes and that the management had noth-

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S. CLAY WILLIAMS, UNDER LABOR FIRE, RESIGNS AS CHAIRMAN OF N. I. R. B.

Anti-Union Official of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company For Months Under Attack of American Federation of Labor, Which Asked His Dismissal at San Francisco Convention Last October.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 11 (ILNS)—S. Clay Williams, tobacco magnate, has resigned from the chairmanship of the National Industrial Recovery Board, to the grim satisfaction of organized labor—and of some labor which has tried to organize and been kept from doing so.

Mr. Williams was appointed chairman of the NIRA in September, 1934, after holding several other positions in the NRA. The American Federation of Labor at its convention in San Francisco passed a formal resolution condemning Williams as a public official, and asking President Roosevelt to dismiss him. President William Green of the A. F. of L. passed this request to the White House and President Roosevelt refused in his now famous letter addressed to "Dear Bill."

Labor's objections to Williams were numerous. He is generally believed to be the strongest man in the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., one of the Big Four, and the most antagonistic of all the Big Four to labor unions.

Company Crushed Union

The Reynolds company a few years ago, when Williams was vice-president, crushed an attempt to unionize the plant at Winston-Salem by wholesale discharge; and reports from the North Carolina tobacco district now have that while the Liggett & Myers plant at Durham is pretty well organized, Reynolds employes are afraid to move toward the unions.

Wages have been as low in the Reynolds plant as in the rest of the Big Four, and at one time, according to reliable report, 400 families, each with a member working in the Reynolds stemmery, were also receiving public relief because their earnings were not sufficient to live on.

Labor insists that the low wages in the tobacco industry are all the less excusable in view of the enormous profits which that industry has made all through the depression. Reynolds has paid $30,000,000 dividends each year for five years; more than twice the total payments to its workers in the same period.

Blamed for Bad Code

In addition to these general objections, labor repeatedly called atten-

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AIDING SHARE-CROPPERS TO FORCE LANDLORDS TO OBEY AAA, MAY FORCE LABOR COLLEGE TO MOVE OUT OF ARKANSAS

Mena, Ark., March 10.—The third open move of the Arkansas State Legislature to crush Commonwealth College, the labor school near Mena, came yesterday when a bill was introduced at a night session of the lower house, declaring the act of "advocating anarchy, communism or the overthrow of any established government by force or violence" to be a felony which could be abated by permanent injunction in chancery court. Arthur Garfield Hays and Leo Gallagher, internationally famous lawyers, have offered to defend Commonwealth.

Commonwealth College is a non-factional labor school which teaches all working-class points of view, and it is certain that the "nuisance" bill will be so interpreted as to make unlawful the possession of many of the books which the Commonwealth library contains, and the possession of such books ample grounds for getting an injunction against the operation of the College.

This series of determined attacks against Commonwealth follows directly upon the participation of students and teachers of Commonwealth in the struggles of the share-croppers in Eastern Arkansas to force the landlords to obey the ruling of AAA. The latter attempted first by instituting a legislative committee to investigate "un American teachings" of the College, at the same time rushing through the House the most vicious anti-labor sedition bill ever presented to a legislative body in America.

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Hearst Papers' Vitrolic Attack Resented by Pres. Green

String of Newspapers Devoted to Campaign Against McCarran Amendment to Works Relief Bill, Resorts to Villification of Senators and Labor and Exceeds "Ordinary Decency."

Washington, D. C., Mar. 5 (ILNS)—The energetic and vitriolic campaign of several newspapers in different parts of the country controlled by William Randolph Hearst, against the McCarran Amendment to the Works Relief Bill, climaxed by an especially shocking editorial in the Hearst papers, entitled "Reckless Demagogy", elicited a strong reply from William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

While reiterating past friendship, President Green was constrained to set forth sound and established facts, in a special telegram sent direct to Mr. Hearst. The editorial was referred to as "shocking to all decent men's sense of justice and to one's ordinary conception of fair play."

As this telegram sets forth important facts, it is reprinted herewith as a matter of public record:

(copy)

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.

"W. R. Hearst,
"Los Angeles, Calif.

"Because I have always held you in high regard it is difficult to reconcile myself to the belief that you sponsored the shocking editorial entitled "Shocking Demagogy" published in the Hearst paper today.

"The characterization in this editorial of Labor and labor representatives as demagogs and a large number of United States Senators who are known to be honest, upright, conscientious men, as renegades, is shocking to all decent men's sense of justice and to one's ordinary conception of fair play. The one who wrote this editorial charges labor representatives who are fighting to maintain wage rates established as a result of years of struggle and effort and to destroy the influence of subversive elements in our national life, as demagogs; and brilliant, patriotic Senators who uphold their honest convictions upon the prevailing wage rate amendment which provided for the maintenance of American standards of living, as renegades.

"This is going far beyond the limits of ordinary decency, good sportsmanship, and fair play. I resent this editorial and am doing all I can at the moment by submitting to you this solemn protest. It is the working people of America and not the favored class who have suffered hunger, distress and oppression during the past five years of unemployment.

"It ill becomes those who have not been forced to endure the pangs of hunger, who are more fortunately situated, to charge these hungry men and women and those who represent them as being demagogs, when they seek to protect rates established in every community throughout the land.

"The special attack which your editorial writer made upon Senator Wagner, a brilliant, devoted, honest and incorruptible American citizen, marked a climax to the loose writing and vituperation engaged in. Your attack upon this distinguished Senator from New York has solidified the strength of the mass of people in New York and throughout the nation behind him.

"I repeat my solemn protest against the unjustifiable and reprehensible editorial attack which appeared in the Hearst papers today against Labor and loyal, patriotic United States Senators. I trust I may receive a reply to this message assuring me of your personal disavowal of sponsorship of this wicked editorial.

"WILLIAM GREEN, President,
"American Federation of Labor."

PORTLAND

NEWLY-APPOINTED JUDGE OF MUNICIPAL COURT SUGGESTS MEANS FOR RETURN OF PORTLAND'S WATERFRONT BUSINESS

In Address Before American Legion, Judge Welch Says It is Duty of All Citizens to Work for Reestablishment of Conditions as They Prevailed in Early Days—Favors Establishment of Port District.

"American goods, for American ports, in American bottoms." This is the slogan Judge Herbert J. Welch would have all citizens of Portland adopt as a means for bringing Portland's waterfront to the long point which characterized it at one time as one of the leading ports in the country.

Judge Welch's address, during which he brought out most interesting points concerning the future of Portland's maritime activities, was delivered at a luncheon of Harold T. Andrews Post, American Legion, last Thursday evening, and is regarded by representatives of the Portland Central Labor Union as most constructive and one that should be taken seriously by every one interested in the city's future. Judge Welch said, in part:

"I am appearing under what I believe is my right according to our preamble, and I believe it my duty and your duty, for the benefit of our citizens, to begin a fight similar to what our neighbors on the Canadian side are waging to get back what we have lost, viz., the business of our waterfront.

"We see vacant stores and if you and I do not get the citizens interested, many of our business establishments will be forced to leave Portland, and our sons and saughters, and possibly ourselves will be forced to seek employment elsewhere.

"So, let us use every reasonable method to seek relief from our government and to again establish the business on our waterfront, which will mean employment, business for the merchants, and the return of prosperity to Portland in general."

Analyzing the principal needs for the restoration, development and expansion of the Port of Portland, Judge Welch said:

"The development of the city centers around, and is vitally concerned with ships and shipping. Portland was always prosperous when shipping conditions were good, this dating back as early as 1726, when it was the center of the seagoing colony, with as many as 26 ships in the harbor at one time. In 1737 there were 30 ships and four ship-yards.

"In 1869, the Port had the largest drydock in the United States, which was located in South Portland, and Casco Bay was deep enough to accommodate the entire United States Navy.

"The railroad facilities offer lesser distances and easier haul trunk rates to the Middle West. As a matter of fact," Judge Welch said, "no port in the country offers better advantages for shipping, and all that is needed is greater cooperation on the part of our citizens to bring it back to where it was."

As a remedy for existing conditions and to make possible Portland's return to real prosperity, the Judge offered the following:

The establishment of a Port district.

Differential rates to be given American shippers, lower freight rates and improved grading.

Indirect subsidies. Halifax, for instance, he said, received 45 millions of dollars from the Canadian government; Boston, 30 millions from the United States; New York, 50 millions, and Albany, 26 millions.

Judge Welch, who was recently named municipal court judge, was formerly chairman of the Democratic State Committee, succeeding John Dooley when the latter was appointed Collector of Customs.

Among trade unionists who are high in their praises concerning the plans outlined by Judge Welch, is John Brown, president of the Longshoremen's Union, who refers to it as one that should meet with immediate approval, and that agitation should be started at once to put Portland on the map as one of the country's greatest ports.

Hod Carriers Re-affiliate With C. L. U. After 12 Years' Absence

With the Hod Carriers' Local Union re-affiliated with the Portland Central Labor Union, and with prospects of several other locals coming into the fold in the near future, officials feel confident that within a few months the number of affiliates will be equal to the pre-depression period.

Last Wednesday night's meeting, according to Secretary McDonald, was largely attended, and reports of committees on organization, union label, education and others, showed good progress is being made.

For the building trades, it was said prospects for work during the Spring and Summer months are fair. In addition to ERA projects, it was said, while new construction work is still lagging, work anticipated on repairs and alterations bids fair to create a goodly amount of employment.

For the educational committee, it was reported efforts are being made to have Judge Welch as the speaker at the next meeting of the C. L. U., to be held on Wednesday evening, March 20th. Local trade unionists are greatly interested in the movement which he has started to revive shipping conditions in Portland, and are desirous of hearing his plan outlined in detail.

Delegates representing Hod Carriers' Local 12, who were obligated at last Wednesday night's meeting, are: Pritio Morrillo, Emanuel Carlista, Louis Damico, John Arillo and Samuel Fernando.

Members of the executive board of Molders' Local 248 who were present at the meeting, and who felt confident their local union would vote to affiliate at their next meeting.

Montgomey, Ward Co., Inc., to Open Portland Branch

"One change makes another," is an old saying! This is borne out by the fact that Montgomery, Ward & Co., Inc., is to open the store premises formerly occupied by the J. R. Libby Company at 554 to 560 Congress street. It is also understood that so far as may be possible the employes who worked for the Libby concern will be retained by the new proprietors.

The opening of this store will mark the 496th link of merchandising outlets now controlled by Montgomery, Ward & Co., Inc. The formal opening of this new branch in Portland will be in the early part of the Summer, and extensive remodeling and repair of the premises are scheduled to start early next month. This will be good news to the skilled tradesmen of Portland and marks another local instance of the march of recovery from the depression.

Kohler Products Are Unfair to Wisconsin AFL Federal Union

Gunmen are still employed by the Kohler Company, of Sheboyan, Wisconsin, to interfere with the legal rights of members of Federal Union No. 18,545 to carry on peaceful picketing, and that former Governor Kohler, widely advertised as a "model employer" and proprietor of what is known as the "model village", still persists in his refusal to settle differences with the union, and therefore, the Portland C. L. U. at Wednesday night's meeting, was asked to endorse Local 18,545's strike which has now been going on since last July.

The Kohler Co., the communication stated, manufactures plumbing fixtures, electric light and heating plants, steam plants, pottery ware, bath tubs, etc., and its present employes are men who took the places of union members when these went on strike.

The communication concludes as follows: "We respectfully and most earnestly appeal to all who, from a sense of fairness, are willing to help the cause of the workers who are being victimized by an autocratic corporation. The strike is endorsed by the Wisconsin Federation of Labor."

The communication was referred to the Union Label committee.

Keith's Theater Accused of Violating NRA Theater Code

The Portland Central Labor Union, through President Lester G. Bragdon, sends a message to all readers of The Labor News and to the citizens of Portland, regarding Keith's Circuit, not only because it is unfair to organized labor but because of its brazen violation of NRA codes.

According to President Bragdon, who is prominently identified with the Portland Motion Picture Operators' local, the management of Keith's Circuit not only refuses to bargain collectively with organized labor but defies the Government itself by violating the NRA codes insofar as hours of labor and wages are concerned for its motion picture operators and other workers in its theater.

Work Assignment Board Member Praises Maine Trade Unionists

"Cooperation on the part of officials of Maine trade unions and the sincere manner in which they go about matters concerning NRA codes, is a great source of satisfaction to us in our work," said Miss Grace Farrell, a member of the Textile Work Assignment Board, in referring to her duties here during the past few weeks.

This is Miss Farrell's first visit in Maine and she took occasion to express her admiration concerning its scenic beauties, and the courteous manner in which she was greeted by all with whom she came in contact during her investigations.

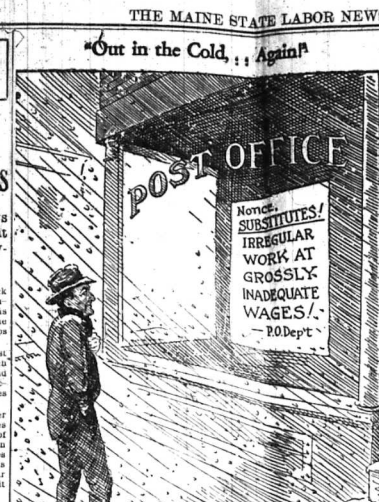
She was especially interested in meetings of workers to which she had been privileged to attend, and was particularly impressed with the sincerity and willingness to cooperate manifested by all with whom she had dealings.

Miss Farrell made particular reference to her visit to Biddeford, where she said she was accorded a courteous reception and that as a consequence her work was greatly facilitated.

Federal Child Labor Amendment Defeated

The Federal Child Labor Amendment suffered a slashing defeat in the Mass. Legislature last Wednesday, only five votes being recorded in favor.

Defeat of the Amendment was attributed to the campaign conducted by representatives of Cardinal O'Connell, and other influential forces, who feared its passage would interfere with the religious and educational rights of children.



—Reprint from March, 1935, Union Postal Clerk.

THE PLIGHT OF THE POSTAL SUBSTITUTE

The sub itute in the postal service is not a "forgotten man" he is a man who has been disinherited by a systematic policy of disregard of human considerations, continuing for more than five years past.

The postal substitute is called into the service through civil service examinations. He does auxiliary work during rush periods and replaces regular employes absent for various causes. Thus, he acquires experience which fits him to fill a regular position. This is his sole motive for accepting appointment. Substitutes are essential to the postal service.

But as a result of economies legislated by Congress, the work available for substitutes has been drastically curtailed. This has meant hit and miss employment with net returns in some cases as low as eight dollars a month. Cases of such payments as 50 cents for two weeks' odd service are on record.

Local relief agencies having refused to admit postal substitutes to the relief rolls, believing that such unfortunates had a government position, had to be informed by the government that they were eligible for such aid and assistance. Hardship was caused also by the postal department refraining from hiring men where there was evidently sufficient work to be done to warrant such employment.

The National Federation of Post Office Clerks is actively seeking a legislative remedy to protect the substitute clerks from a continuation of this unjust discrimination.

The President Addresses American Labor

In Statement to Members of Executive Council, Following Recent Conference, Chief Executive Highly Praised A. F. of L. as Helpful and Cooperative in Development of NRA—Can't Compel Organization Says Difficulties Found in Heretofore Totally Unorganized Field.

I have been particularly glad to receive and discuss common problems with the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, and to congratulate them upon their enlarged Executive Council, bringing into cooperation more units of the labor movement. The American Federation of Labor has been helpful and cooperative in the development of the programs for the rehabilitation of industry and of our economic life over the past two years, and I hope their cooperation will continue active and effective.

"Cooperation with labor as well as with business is essential to the continuation of the programs we are working out for a more stable and more satisfactory industrial life in this country. I have on a number of occasions urged the necessity, as well as the soundness of furthering the principle of collective bargaining as between labor and management. This is my personal point of view, but it is also set forth in the National Industrial Recovery Act.

"In pursuance of the policy as referred to, we must fully understand the difficulties attendant to its accomplishment by reason of the absence, in many respects of a disciplined order both as it refers to labor and industry. Notwithstanding this, it must be obvious that the best possible results in rehabilitating our economic structure, is to be found in the well-organized and highly developed organization of both employes and employers, with their relationship resting upon the foundation of conciliation and arbitration and the full and frank recognition of the unescapable community of interests to be found in the industry itself.

"The Federal Government has indicated through the National Industrial Recovery Act its desire that labor and management organize for the purposes of collective bargaining and the furtherance of industrial peace and prosperity, but the Federal Government cannot, of course, undertake to compel employes and employers to organize. It should be a voluntary organization.

"To you of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, permit me to very definitely assure you of my appreciation and recognition of the Federation in the work of rehabilitating industry and in the protection of our country itself. No one can disregard the importance of the American Federation of Labor as one of the great and outstanding institutions of the country. It has been my purpose to recognize this in every practical and logical way, and I have no intention of changing my point of view.

"My impression is that our difficulties are found largely in the heretofore totally unorganized field, both as it affects employers and employes. In such cases we must have patience.

"Finally, permit me to say that we are seeking to promote peace, cooperation and understanding in all of the industries of the United States between labor and management, to the end that we can eliminate the inequities and institute practical and scientific stabilization for the common good of all those engaged in industry as well as for the nation itself."

881 WORCESTER CARPET WORKERS VOTE TO JOIN UNITED TEXTILE WORKERS AT MEETING FOLLOWING TALK BY RIVIERE

Charter for New Local Applied For and Appropriate Ceremonies to Be Held at Meeting Upon Its Receipt—Employed at Whittall Mills and Had Formed Independent Organization a Year Ago.

Worcester, Massachusetts, Mar. 8— In an interview over the telephone this morning with Vice-President Horace A. Riviere, of the United Textile Workers of America, at his office in Providence, he announced that affiliation on the part of the Worcester Carpet Workers' Association with the U. T. W. of A., with a membership of 881, had been completed and that a charter which had been applied for by the new local, was expected to reach here from the New York office within a few days.

Affiliation with the U. T. W. by the local organization, whose 881 members are employed in the Whittall Mills, followed ah address by Vice-President Riviere at a meeting of the association held in A. O. H. Hall recently, at which more than 600 were present.

Action looking toward this move had been authorized for some time, but delayed until all members were satisfied that this was the best means of procedure along organization lines.

It was brought home some time ago that the formation of a national organization of Carpet Workers might be effected, and a portion of the membership felt this would prove advantageous to the industry. But with the affiliation of the 2,000 employes of the Bigelow Hartford Mill in Thompsonville, Conn., the Ohio Carpet Mills in Warren, and locals started in New York, Pennsylvania and other carpet centers, with the U. T. W. of A., the plan for forming a national organization was terminated.

In order it possible for Carpet Workers locals to come in closer contact, the United Textile Workers have formed a carpet department, with an executive board, which holds monthly meetings in New York City. By this means the entire situation in the carpet industry is closely watched.

Filene Scoffs at Low Wage Theory Advocated by Sloan

In a brief introductory broadcast this morning, Matthew Woll, third vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, has analyzed the recent publicly expressed views of Edward A. Filene, president of the company of that name in Boston, with regard to the necessity of high wages to maintain industrial stability. This view, as Mr. Woll points out, is in direct contradiction to that held by President Alfred P. Sloan, of General Motors, and other industrial leaders. Mr. Sloan, in a recent public address, specifically urged that lower wages are the only road to recovery.

It might be well to state here that the General Motors concern, a giant corporation, is making desperate efforts to defeat the plain provisions of Section 7 (a) of the National Industrial Recovery Act. This fact is mentioned in more detail in another column).

Mr. Filene, in an extended and most convincing article, reiterates his long standing belief, namely, that if wages had been high enough there would have been no difficulty in finding an ample market for our machine products. The error was that wages were low, very low, in relation to our ability to produce, which is the only scientific way by which wages can be measured, he said.

Mr. Filene accused the theory that a big war would be good for business, ultimately. Continuing he says:

"A big war might stimulate American business into a semblance of prosperity, but in the end it would turn out less profitably than the last one. (This is the World War, in which this country sank 25 billions of dollars to pay for other peoples fighting.) To seek prosperity by means of war," said Mr. Filene, "is like trying to keep warm by burning down our house."

The American people, and the hosts of Labor, are to be congratulated in having a practical economist like Mr. Filene espouse the cause of common sense in industry, and the upholding of human rights for the masses of those who toil.

Norris Says Wealth Redistribution Essential to Save Civilization

Lincoln, Nebr., Mar. 8 (ILNS.)— Redistribution of wealth is essential if civilization is to be preserved, Senator George W. Norris declared in speaking at the University of Nebraska.

To accomplish this end he advocated a progressive federal inheritance tax, designed to curb the growing concentration of wealth in the hands of the few—a concentration in which Norris sees a national menace.

"Today there is little doubt in the minds of thinking people that the redistribution of wealth is a necessity if we wish to preserve our civilization," Norris said. "If we are to secure a permanent recovery from our difficulties as a people, it is an absolute necessity that this be one of the aims which a complete recovery must have in view."

Redistribution, as contemplated by a progressive inheritance tax, Norris explained, does not contemplate taking from one man and giving his property to another.

"It means taking money from the estates of the very wealthy, where it can perform no real service for humanity, and giving it, in the form of all taxes, to all people, from which it was originally taken and under whose laws it was accumulated."

"Such a program," the Senator predicted, "would in a few generations, relieve society entirely from the dangers which now threaten the very life of the nation. To a great extent, it would relieve our country of pauperism and poverty. It would very materially help to feed the starving and clothe the naked."

It is expected the charter for the new local union will be received here in a few days, when a special meeting will be called, at which Mr. Riviere is expected to conduct installation ceremonies.

Executive Board of Woolen and Worsted Dept. to Meet March 16th

It was announced from Providence headquarters of the U. T. W. of A. yesterday that the executive board of the Woolen and Worsted Department of the U. T. W. of A. would hold a meeting at 95 Fountain street, that city, next Saturday morning, March 16th, at 10 o'clock. President William Dunlap of Rockville will preside.

Gov't Reports Show Eleven Millions Are Now Unemployed

Nearly 11 million unemployed! That is something to keep in mind when studying the general economic status of today!

From Washington comes this word as a result of a canvass of the unemployed completed as of December, 1934. But the American Federation of Labor gives the total number as over 11,329,000. Whichever agency may be right, the approximate total—11,000,000 idle persons who must be supported somehow, by somebody—is a major scale problem for the government and for every individual community.

The January figures have not been made public, thus far, but there are slight indications that they will be materially reduced from the above total. With the advent of Spring, however, work incidental to that period may have its seasonal effect upon unemployment, especially in the agricultural districts. Much will also depend upon the developments at Washington with regard to the extension of the NRA and the final form and magnitude of the public works $4,800,000,000 program now under heated discussion.

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AUGUSTA

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO FURTHER CURB RIGHTS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 1)

be taken against any officer who makes arrests, except for use of excessive force.

Still another bill which it enacted, would probably jeopardize the rights of the workers, is that which states that no person need be warned of his rights before making a confession or admission admissable in evidence, and whether or not there was such warning might not be inquired into at the trial of a criminal case, or that at the trial of a criminal case the fact that evidence has been obtained illegally shall not render such evidence inadmissable.

Other bills that would prevent the moving of household furniture unless the same was reported to the city or town clerk from whence such household goods were removed, and prohibiting workers who had obtained relief for a specified time during the past year from registering pleasure cars without first obtaining from the city or town officers a statement that said car would help the applicant to earn a living.

Automobile Not A Luxury

With the curtailment of street car service in many Maine cities, the automobile can no longer be considered a luxury, but as much of a necessity as the kitchen range, and many workers have to rely on their own car as a means of transportation to and from such work as they are able to find during this period of widespread unemployment.

An amendment to Section 6, Chapter 153 of the Revised Statutes, relating to vagrancy, was introduced by Senator Tompkins of Aroostook, which would permit the trial justice or municipal court to commit to jail or the house of correction on complaint of anyone under oath "all able-bodied persons not having an estate or other means to maintain themselves and their families, who refused or neglected to work". This demonstrates the extent to which some would go in attempting to solve their personal problems, without regard to its effect upon the welfare of the State as a whole.

Labor's Legislative Program

As in past years, several bills have been introduced and sponsored by the Labor movement of Maine. These include six bills relating to Workmen's Compensation Insurance, one of which is a bill to increase the weekly compensation to injured workers, another is an attempt to create a State Fund for Workmen's Compensation Insurance, and three others would give an injured employe the right to select his own physician or surgeon, in case of an injury.

All of these bills met with strong opposition from the insurance companies, the Associated Industries and representatives of the paper industries of the State. One of these bills, Legislative Document 49, introduced by Mr. Hill of South Portland, a member of the Judiciary Committee, was strongly supported, and it is hoped that it will receive favorable consideration from the committee.

Just "A Cog in the Wheel"

It is sometimes amazing to hear the expressions of opponents of such bills as would help labor. For instance, one representative of the insurance companies had no opposition to the bill except, as he said, "it would shift the emphasis of the law on the other side", meaning the workers; so it is evident to a careful listener that the emphasis is now on the side of the insurance companies and the employers.

A representative of the employers said that they considered an injured workman like a "cog in the wheel" and their only interest was to get the man back to work as quickly as possible.

Another said: "inasmuch as the employer pays for compensation insurance, he should have the right to select the doctor in case of an accident". They evidently do not think of the human side of the case, and would select the doctor for an injured work man just as a farmer would select a veterinary for his livestock.

As a matter of fact, compensation insurance is paid for by the employes. The cost of carrying such insurance is, of course, charged to operating expense. If no insurance was carried it would mean an increase in wages for the employes, or increased profits for the employer, and I am sure the employes would insist that it mean increased wages in order that they might in some other manner carry compensation insurance in case they were injured while at work.

Not only do the employes create products which pay for insurance but they and they alone, pay for and suffer the physical distress and mental distraction caused by the uncertainty of whether or not he will ever return to work, and as to what will become of his dependents.

"Yellow Dog" Contract

The Legislature enacted a law limiting and defining the jurisdiction of courts in labor disputes. The bill outlaws "yellow dog" contracts and defines specific acts which courts should not issue injunctions against.

At the hearing the only opposition was from Benjamin F. Cleaves, representing the Maine Associated Industries, who said that "from the personnel of the proponents of the bill it was only an attempt to increase the membership of the American Federation of Labor and as such could only be considered as 'class legislation'."

It is surprising how the opponents of Labor will cry "class legislation" and "unconstitutional" when failing to find legitimate grounds to oppose the legislation favorable to the workers.

It is difficult to say what influence Judge Cleaves' remark might have had on the committee. He told the committee that he represented 200 citizens of the State, while the representatives of Labor were speaking for thousands of workers, so it is evident that he really desires "class legislation" or the lack of it, for the few whom he represents rather than legislation which would be of real benefit to the masses.

Interstate Compacts

The resolve to create a commission on Interstate Compacts affecting Labor, Industry was introduced by Rep. Lebel of Brunswick, and strongly supported by Labor Commissioner Chas. O. Beals, Representative Sawyer of Brunswick and others, but was opposed by Gail Laughlin on the ground that it was but an opening wedge for the enactment of legislation regulating wages and hours of labor for women. In view of her remarks, it would appear that she had always opposed legislation effecting women in business and industry, and also that the creation of such a commission would be needless unless Maine anticipated the enactment of such legislation as the commission might suggest. She claimed the result did not originate in Maine, but is an attempt on the part of outsiders to bring conditions of labor and industry in Maine up to their standards for their own benefit, that Maine should retain the right to act individually at all times, probably meaning in cases concerning labor.

These things all demonstrate the necessity for Labor to be always on the alert, that Maine should become of the activities of the present Legislature will demonstrate more fully the need of Labor to stick to the old slogan: "Elect your friends and defeat your enemies", and in the next two years elect persons to public office who are more familiar with the needs of the workers, and who feel a responsibility to that group which elects them.

Members of Local 1778 Disappointed Over Fenton's Absence

On February 23rd, Textile Local No. 1778 held an open mass meeting in City Hall, which was well attended. The local had advertised that Francis P. Fenton, A. F. of L. organizer, as the principal speaker.

The large group gathered to hear Mr. Fenton speak were greatly disappointed when it was learned that it was impossible for him to attend.

Speakers were Joseph S. Poirier, organizer for the U. T. W. of A; Joseph Lagerin, Arthur Smith, Ronaldo Poulin, officers of Local 1778. The main questions under discussion were the possibilities of the outcome of the general strike and methods of action to meet the results which may be unfavorable. Secretary Clarence R. Burgess represented the Maine State Federation of Labor at the meeting.

Mine Workers Pledge Support to Shovel Makers on Strike

According to a communication received at the office of the Maine State Federation of Labor from Federal Employes Local 19,658 of Dickersburg, W. Va., United Mine Workers of America who use 60 per cent of the shovels manufactured by the Ames Baldwin Wyoming Shovel Co., whose employes are on strike because the company attempted to break up their organization by forcing a company union upon them, have pledged 100 per cent support by refusing to use shovels made by that company.

More than 75 per cent of all shovels made in this country, the communication states, are products of this concern, and organized Labor everywhere is asked to cooperate with the union in its efforts to win the strike.

All the elements which character ize strikes against big corporations are here brought out in this one, namely: violence prompted by hired guards; brutal shooting and clubbing of pickets by state police, and other means for defeating the local union in its efforts to maintain its organization.

The concern is the largest manufacturer of shovels in the world and did 78 per cent of all the shovel business in 1933. This was reduced to 75 per cent in 1934, and present indications are that as the result of its fight against the union it will be reduced to 25 per cent in 1935.

SALES TAX SYSTEM WRONG IN PRINCIPLE, DECLARES SECY BURGESS

(Continued from Page 1)

hardship and suffering. During all this period it has manifested a spirit of self-position and self-restraint which have challenged the admiration of its many friends. Whatever argument is offered in support of sales tax legislation during periods of reasonable prosperity cannot apply now. The existing economic situation adds to the strength of argument against the imposition of such taxation. The sales tax would fall more heavily upon the masses of the people who are now suffering from unemployment than upon any other group of our citizenship. To add a sales tax to the reduction of wages which has been imposed upon wage earners during the last four years would mean addition to the misery, woe and want which now prevails throughout the state.

"How can men and women who are unable to buy the bare necessities of life be expected to pay a sales tax upon the limited merchandise which they are able to buy? To impose a sales tax upon the necessities of life would mean that the masses who are now purchasing only a limited amount would be compelled to buy still less. It is a form of taxation which is contrary to the basis upon which we have always built our tax structure. Namely, to relieve those who are less able, and collect from those who are best able to pay. Such a tax as the proposed sales tax will tend to delay a return to prosperity; it will further destroy the very limited buying power now possessed by the masses of the people. It will prevent the sale of manufactured goods, and it will mean less food, warmth and clothing for thousands of men, women and children.

Falls More Heavily on Workers

"In the end it falls more heavily on people whose incomes are so small that they spend all of it for the necessities of life produced by the workers of our industrial system which they, in turn, must sell if we are to have any semblance of prosperity.

"Already, due to the general work opportunities have deprived around 40,000 workers of the opportunity of purchasing all that they should, thereby decreasing the purchasing power and living standards of thousands more, with wage cuts and part-time work. Now come the political reactionaries to the people with their reactionary proposal to still further reduce the standards of living for those who are employed by making them pay a sales tax. It will be shifted to the ultimate consumer, and to lower the already starving standards of those without jobs by increasing the cost of charity itself. Upon the theory that our tax structure is based namely upon the ability to pay, what does a sales tax mean to the manufacturer and those possessing the wealth of the state?

"It means by this that when the manufacturer's income is reduced he cannot afford a contemplated trip to Bermuda or abroad, or that he cannot buy a new car, build a country home, or he may even have to give up some of his club memberships—but there is still enough to eat and clothe for himself and his wife and his children, if he has any. But as soon as the unemployed pay is reduced his family must get along with less meat, vegetables, butter, milk, bread and clothing.

Wrong in Principle

"Sales tax advocates are likely to claim that these sales tax rates are not low to be burdensome, but I am of the opinion that even if levied at a low rate the principle of the sales tax is wrong, not only does it fail to take into account the ability to pay but it goes to the other extreme and increases the tax burden as the taxpaying ability becomes less. The rather general experience is that even when sales taxes are adopted at a low rate they are rapidly jacked up to a higher rate.

"Once the opening wedge is made by the adoption of a sales tax principle it becomes easy for hard-pressed politicians to boost the rate. This discrepancy in the burden of the tax becomes much more marked when food is included. As income grows smaller a larger proportion must be spent for food. Since the tendency of the sales tax would be to increase the price of commodities purchased by consumers, namely, workers who have already undergone drastic wage cuts, and husbands as the consumption expenditures absorb a larger part of their income than on the consumption expenditures of the higher paid group. It is obvious a sales tax would bear more heavily on the workers than upon those of the more well-to-do classes.

"As one who works, and for the workers, I therefore protest and wish to go on record as opposed to any method of taxation that would tend to increase the burden of the already distressed and charity receiving masses, and do the work for our State and Nation."

Get Down to Business

(Continued from Page 1)

Maine." Mr Finemore said and I have become convinced that those of the locations whose members attended meetings regularly who stood four square in support of their officers who kept their heads on their shoulders by keeping sober, who volunteered to serve on grievance social and other committees, who abstained from finding fault because they did not receive a $5.00 increase in their pay envelopes after paying a couple of dollars in monthly dues, who discussed union affairs in the meeting rooms rather than in saloons or on street corners or who came to appreciate the real efforts of their national and local officials, have bettered their conditions.

"Look over the entire field" he said "and you will find that local unions which have adhered strictly to union principles, have achieved good results in the way of wages, those whose members acted with indifference and who looked upon their organization as a temporary proposition have not made appreciable progress."

Big Job Ahead

In closing Mr. Finemore strongly pleaded for greater cooperation. Let's make this Council one of the best delegate bodies of its kind in the entire jurisdiction of the United Textile Workers of America. We've got a big job ahead of us. We must be active, though patient and persevering. We must put up a solid front, and in so doing gain the respect and good will of our employers.

In other words let's all pull together, and with all our might and determination resolve to make our local unions and this Textile Council second to none in progressiveness and importance in the entire jurisdiction.

Mr Finemore who has been active in the affairs of Skowhegan Local 2026, was unanimously elected to succeed George Labat, who resigned because of increased demands upon his time as general organizer for the United Textile Workers of America.

Installation ceremonies which had been postponed from the January meeting were conducted by Charles R. Burgess, secretary and legislative agent for the Maine State Federation of Labor.

Honor Roll for Increased Membership

Various plans were discussed for increasing the membership of affiliated local unions. It was finally decided to establish what is to be known as an honor roll, and to award prizes to local unions making the largest gains in membership during the coming year. With the adoption of this plan added by cooperation on the part of the Council, it is hoped to bring every local in the State into the 100 per cent class before the end of the year.

Reports of delegates, relative to conditions in different parts of the State were varied. For the most part these were encouraging, but in several instances serious cases of discrimination against members who

Tobacco Workers' President Assails Code Signed by President

E. LEWIS EVANS

Washington, D. C., Mar. 8 (ILNS)—President Roosevelt has signed the Cigarette Code in the face of the bitter protests of labor in general and

tobacco workers in particular. The latest statement of Mr. Orthwein, president of the Cigar Makers International Union and secretary of the Union Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, and E. Lewis Evans, president of the Tobacco Workers International Union, express a point of view of the case:

"The cigarette code as signed by the President is a ghastly rejection on the reorganized NRA. It proves conclusively that labor must fight its own battles for better conditions, the statement says. It continues:

"The President's call for a further study by the NRA Division of Research and Planning is a curtain to hide the fact that the Secretary of Labor administration as dominated by Mr. S. Clay Williams, vice-chairman of the NRA, has failed utterly to carry out the Act of Congress which created NRA. Adequate information was and is on hand to refute any claim made by the employers in favor of this miserable code. After the disregard with which the NRA Research and Planning Board, on the automobile industry, was received labor must conclude that facts are no longer considered in writing codes."

New Work in Whitin's Mill to Provide Employment for 150

Northbridge, Mass., March 5. The Whitin Machine Works announced the hiring of all its employes Tuesday afternoon at 2:45 p.m. The agent addressed the employes and said that a plan had been outlined which they believed would be of interest to all employes and their families.

As you know this concern has recently undertaken the manufacture of cotton, which has put many people out of work, stopping both the card and spinning room for weeks. We wish to take over a new line of work to replace cotton. It is the policy of the management that we do not feed the people this would give employment to about 100 or 150 persons, which is probably more than those employed at present put out of work because the elimination of cotton.

The agent said the purpose of this meeting was to find out whether employes are in favor of having this new line of work brought into the factory. If so, he asked that a show of hands would be expressed by the concern.

He said: All in favor raise their hand. The plan was accepted by all throughout the room with the thanked the employes for cooperating with the management.

There was some doubt regarding the proposition as it is said that the new work would bring in outside experienced help and that those now employed would be transferred to other departments because of the local union.

A. F. OF L. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN LETTER TO PRESIDENT, URGES EXTENSION OF N. R. A. AND ENFORCEMENT OF SEC. 7a

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, submitted the following letter for the Executive Council to the President at the White House on Tuesday, in which he sets forth the problems facing Labor:

"The members of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor are very appreciative of the opportunity to present to you our urgent problems. We are seeking to overcome unemployment, restore purchasing power; relieve human distress and promote social tranquility through a complete realization, with you, of the aims and purposes of the National Recovery Act. We are confident that a frank, face to face discussion will promote understanding and prevent misunderstandings which arise from indirect reporting of views held and positions assumed.

First, we wish to assure you of our wholehearted desire to cooperate in carrying out the purposes of the National Recovery Program and to congratulate you upon the objectives which your leadership has given this program.

As responsible spokesmen for the American Labor movement we wish to assure you of our endorsement of the fundamental principles underlying the National Recovery Act and to urge that this measure be extended temporarily, at least:

Criticism Not Against NRA, But to Administration of Act

"The criticisms which we have leveled against the National Recovery Administration have not been at the principles of the Act but have been directed toward errors in administration, machinery of administration, procedure followed and interpretations made by those clothed with administrative authority. These are matters which ought to be adjusted through conferences held for the purpose of all concerned. There ought to be agreement upon the part of those directly affected upon both present and future policy.

"The success of the National Recovery Act depends very much upon the application to human relations industry of the principle and policy of mutual agreements determined jointly by the parties concerned with the governmental supervision. Furthermore, we believe that if self-government is not developed in industry, it will be necessary to extend political control into this sphere and that such political control will inevitably be of an arbitrary nature. We believe that the experience of the past nineteen months under the National Recovery Act indicates that self-government is possible if mistakes are corrected and procedures developed, so that the results will more closely approach the objectives outlined in the preamble to the National Recovery Act.

We most earnestly urge that the National Recovery Act be extended with the following recommendations embodied.

Continuance of NRA as a Governmental Function

"1. That the administration of the National Recovery Act be kept a governmental function. We believe it is a basic principle that the development and administration of codes should not be transferred to private, non-governmental agencies.

"2. That Section 7 (a) be retained, which gives legal status to employes' right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

"3. That provisions for the regulation of maximum hours of labor, rates of minimum rates of pay and maximum hours of work, be retained.

"4. That Labor shall have equal representation with industry in the administration of the National Recovery Act and shall be accorded adequate representation upon all code authorities. Labor representation on code authorities will guarantee impartial code enforcement and better protection to the public against indefensible price fixing and monopolistic control.

"5. That when there is undue delay in the submission or development of a code through the trade association of an industry, the President shall have the right to impose a code upon such an industry.

"6. That Labor equally with management shall have the right to suggest amendments to Codes of Fair Competition.

"We believe that continuation of the National Recovery Administration directed at these fundamental principles will result in progress toward stable industrial expansion with equal protection of the rights of employers and employes while safeguarding the interests of all the people through government administration.

"The workers of the United States accepted with implicit confidence the right assured them under section 7 (a) of the National Recovery Act. They joined unions to benefit by the legal right extended to them only to meet persecution and discrimination and even the loss of jobs from which their meager incomes came. Shocked and disillusioned when the Government did not protect them in the exercise of their right to organize and bargain collectively, their resentment has been deep and bitter and is growing.

"We believe that in addition to continuation of the National Recovery Act, it is necessary to enact the principle contained in Section 7 (a) into substantial legislation so that it may be the law of the land without regard to whether industries are operating under codes of fair competition. We, therefore, are urging the enactment of an industrial disputes measure which will assure to all wage earners the right to membership in free trade unions and representation through persons of their own choosing and will implement these rights. There should be written into this legislation such definitions as experience shows are necessary to protect labor in the exercise of its legal rights."

False and Misleading Statements

Other matters of importance discussed in the latter to the President concerned relief work, the manufacture and sale of convict-made goods, mine regulation bill, the shorter work-week, and a lengthy discussion on the present status of the automobile industry, stating in conclusion that the declarations made by the Automobile Board were false and misleading for the various following reasons:

"1. The American Federation of Labor instructed its members not to participate in the elections. While many of our members were afraid not to vote, they could not vote for the American Federation of Labor except by writing the name of the organization on the ballot, which they had been instructed by the Federation not to do.

"2. In only four out of the ten plants in which elections have so far been held are there United Automobile Workers Federal Labor Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"3. The Board has avoided holding elections in those plants in which the membership lists submitted by the representatives of labor unions to the Automobile Labor Board showed a majority (in places as high as 80 per cent) of the workers as members of those unions.

"We have stated our position upon matters now pending for legislative and administrative action because we speak for a large group for whom we are the only channel through which their needs and interests can be expressed. Our welfare and progress condition the achievement of recovery for all other groups."

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The Labor News

Official Newspaper of the
MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR
Published Monthly by
THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR
Under Supervision of Alonzo F. Young, Frank C. McDonald, Clarence R. Burgess, Charles McHale, Committee.
P. O. Box 84, Augusta, Me.

The Official Organ of Organized Labor in Maine, Devoted to the Promotion of the Welfare of the Wage Earner and the Prosperity of Industry Through a Better Understanding and Cooperation Between Employer and Employe.
An Exponent of a Square Deal for Both Sides. Constructive in Policy. Independent in Politics.

Subscription, One Year 50 Cents. Price per Copy, 5 Cents

Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1922, at the Post Office at Augusta, Maine, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

EXECUTIVE COUNSIL OF THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

President—Alonzo F. Young, 23 Main St., Bar Harbor
Treasurer—F. H. Fitzgerald, 25 W. Crescent St., Augusta
Secretary and Legislative Agent—Clarence R. Burgess, P. O. Box 84, Augusta

Vice-Presidents
1st District—Frank C. McDonald, 48 Gilman St., Portland
2nd District—Charles McHale, Rumford
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MARCH, 1935

Commerce Chamber Runs True to Form

Ponderous Pronouncements of National C. of C. Unfavorable Toward Means to End Depression Stamps Organization as Being Ultra Reactionary.

The United States Chamber of Commerce has taken an action which should end all doubts and questions in Congress on the work relief bill. It is well known to all who have followed the course of public affairs for the past few years, that whenever in doubt, the safest course is to "copper" the judgment of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce issued ponderous pronouncements at intervals all through the "four years of economic hell" which preceded the inauguration of Roosevelt without offering a single rational suggestion for bringing better times. It sat through the concluding bank crash of that period as if paralyzed. It gave neither aid nor counsel of value in starting the country on the upgrade.

The Chamber did, indeed, say some friendly words for the NRA; and the reason was not long concealed. As soon as statistics showed that profits under the NRA were increasing faster than wages, the approval of the Chamber was understood. It has opposed nearly every measure of relief, and every proposal to give labor a standing in the codes which would enable workers to claim and enforce the rights guaranteed them by the Recovery Act.

The only thing needed now to rally public opinion behind the main principles and policies of the work relief bill is to have the National Association of Manufacturers join in denouncing that bill. The NAM is more cantankerous than the C. of C.; but not more reactionary. If the two will join in a loud blast that the work relief bill is a ticket to the infernal regions, the supporters of that measure will know that they are on the right road.

Let Wrong-Doers Rally in Crime

North Carolina Congressman Would End All Inquiries—Says Congress is "On the Verge of Orgy of Investigations."

Congressman Lindsay C. Warren, North Carolina Democrat, has discovered a peril which others have overlooked. He declares that Congress is "on the verge of an orgy of investigations". The last Congress, he says, spent half a million dollars on investigations, "most of which did not amount to anything"; and he is fearful that the present Congress will go even farther.

Congressman Warren has laid himself open to a rather mean retort. Since Congressional investigations are held to gather information, one might suggest that the Congressman who opposes investigations, as Mr. Warren seems to do, must surely have all the information that he needs. And that is not a very common occurrence.

The investigation of the oil frauds, conducted by the late Senator Thomas J. Walsh of Montana, resulted in the recovery by the United States Government of cash in the neighborhood of $10,000,000, not to mention the return of oil lands of almost fabulous value. The cash returns or savings as a result of the probe of air and ocean mail contracts by Senator Hugo L. Black of Alabama undoubtedly are in the millions already and will increase. The munitions inquiry led by Senator Gerald P. Nye may not have brought in any cash, but it is worth a hundred times its cost in its exposure of the "Blood, iron and profits" gang that is plaguing the peace of the world.

These are three instances out of many; and any one of them is worth more than all the Congressional inquiries have cost in the last twenty years. Woodrow Wilson once said that the work of Congress in investigation was sometimes more important than its work of legislation; and he was right.

"There is no good arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat."—James Russell Lowell.

"Democracy must be progressive or die."—Henry D. Lloyd.

Prevailing Wage Rate Legislation Essential

Sound and Reasonable Objection to Making a Skilled Tradesman Work an En tire Month for the Pitiable Amount of $60.

The fight over the incorporation of a prevailing wage rate clause in the pending House Joint Resolution 117, which is the Administration's $4,800,000,000 Work Relief Bill, may be a successor to the renowned "Judge Parker case". Thirty-six Senators who opposed the interests of wage earners in that case only five years ago are not now in the Senate.

Labor regards this clause as essential. The prevailing wage principle under the circumstances is necessary to the welfare of all working people and to the progress of the country as a whole. Labor will, therefore, fight with all the energy and resources at its command, ever mindful of the public interest.

President Green said before the Senate Appropriations Committee: "It is exceedingly unsound to offer additional employment by means of a work program and at the same time reduce the total income of the wage earner in private employment because of a general reduction in the wage level."

Labor does not object to limiting the amount which those on relief work may receive per month. There is no objection to the $50 a month maximum as suggested. But there is sound and reasonable objection to making a person go out and work the entire month at a skilled trade for such a pitiable amount. There is every economic and social reason why such a situation should not exist.

The bill, already passed by the House in practically its original form, and approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee with a few minor amendments, including the objectionable Russell substitute for Senator McCarran's original prevailing wage amendment, now goes to the Senate for final action. The Senate contains a number of progressive and liberal gentlemen who are held in high esteem by labor and it is felt that these gentlemen also recognize the fact that the payment of prevailing wage rates in each respective community is essential. Labor, therefore, feels that this fight will be won upon the sound basis of merit.

Can Pay Half-Million for Painting, But,

Mr. Multi-Millionaire Automobile Magnates Beg to Be Exempt From Paying Decent Wages.

The automobile industry is hard pressed. So great are the difficulties of the poor and unfortunate multi-millionaires that the automobile code, which has so bitterly oppressed the workers, has been extended several months and the manufacturers respectfully requested that they make their annual announcements and attendant blurb about new models along in the Fall some time.

This is expected to keep more men at work for a longer period. Needless to say, the manufacturers will not do anything of the sort—unless it should develop that they can make a dollar more profit by adopting the suggestion and hat-in-hand request.

The day this was announced the newspapers carried the news of one automobile manufacturer buying a painting for the modest price of half a million dollars. This was a modest indulgence, for these chaps usually put their little spending money of a few millions a year into power yachts as this particular one did a year or so ago.

One wonders why these automobile wastrels do not exercise their powerful influence over the free and unmuzzled press and keep out of the newspapers such items as the purchase of pictures that cost millions and yachts that cost more than a million dollars, when there are millions of people who are suffering in want and misery.

Possibly they either reason or sense that the great masses are not mentally capable of seeing the significance of such things, do not think and therefore are not a menace to the existing system of vast accumulations of wealth and a corresponding accumulation of the numbers in want. Possibly, also, they may be mistaken.

All the time, the mills are grinding and the grist is exceedingly fine.

Labor Has Confidence in President

Wild Stories in Daily Newspapers That Would Make Readers Understand That Breach Exists Refuted.

Labor officials generally agree that the public has been inclined to give undue credence to many wild stories appearing in the daily press, presuming to assert that a breach of understanding and even a lack of confidence developed between organized labor and the President of the United States.

No responsible labor newspaper has repeated this assertion, of course, for the simple reason that no such breach or lack of confidence has ever developed. And no responsible labor official has attacked the President.

Labor representatives have on occasion found it necessary to speak the truth frankly with respect to the attitude and activities of certain individual members of the Administration, but none has found it either necessary or desirable to speak ill of President Roosevelt.

The President now is familiar with the position of organized labor on several vital subjects, for the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor was received at the White House and afforded the opportunity to present its collective view.

The President's statement in response appears elsewhere in this issue. The Executive Council's general statement to the President appeared in last week's issue. A careful perusal of these documents is indeed enlightening. The President's statement closes with a paragraph that strikes a responsive chord in the hearts of all wage earners, for it expresses their ideal:

"We are seeking to promote peace, cooperation and understanding in all of the industries of the United States between labor and management, to the end that we can eliminate the inequities and institute practical and scientific stabilization for the common good of all those engaged in industry as well as for the nation itself."

Securities Law Check on Racketeers

Had Law Been in Effect in 1929, Worst Depression Ever Experienced Might Have Been Averted.

The continued wail of certain corporation executives, investment bankers and Wall Street speculators that the enactment of the Federal Securities Law in 1933 practically banned the sale of legitimate stocks and bonds of private corporations is entirely unwarranted by the report of the Federal Securities Commission, giving the registration statements which the commission has accepted.

The law requires that publicity material issued by corporations to induce people to buy their securities shall tell the exact truth regarding both the corporation and the securities which they desire to sell. The law is very explicit in prohibiting weasel phrases intended either directly or indirectly to deceive investors.

The Commission reports that up to December 31, 1934, it had accepted statements from 896 corporations for the issuance of stocks and bonds totaling $1,353,648,108.89. The Commission, of course, does not sponsor the issuance of the securities. But, by accepting the registration statements of the issuing corporations, the Commission declares that nothing untruthful was found in the statements.

If this law had been in effect during 1929 and previous years, corporation officials and investment bankers in league with the New York Stock Exchange would have been checked in their nationwide racketeering campaigns to unload hundreds of millions of dollars of fraudulent and semi-fraudulent securities on uninformed investors, many of whom were farmers and wage salary earners who were persuaded to transfer their savings to these ruthless plunderbunders for stocks and bonds which ultimately, in many instances, turned out not to be worth the paper on which they were printed.

When Wall Street speculators unlimber epithets of condemnation against Federal or State legislation curbing their activities, it is quite safe to assume that such legislation is wholly in the public interest.

The Labor Havoc of Inventions

Thousands of Workers Are Victims of New Ideas Through Speed-Up and Labor-Eliminating Machinery.

The NRA report on the automobile industry gives figures on the displacement of labor which are not less than appalling.

In 1928, a firm making bodies for automobiles had a wood mill that employed 3,000 men. Today, it has no wood mill; wood is not used in modern automobile bodies. In 1929, the labor cost of making doors in one plant was $4 per door. Today, the labor cost is 15 cents per door.

When the depression began, one manufacturer finished 100 eight-cylinder motor blocks on a given line-up with 250 men. Now, he finishes 250 motor blocks on that line-up with 19 men. A firm making roller bearings employed between 1,000 and 1,100 men only a year ago. Now, 150 men have been dropped from the payroll, while production has gone up 15 per cent.

"This has been accomplished," says the report, "by speed-up and labor-eliminating machinery."

While development of automatic machinery is going faster in the automobile industry than in most other forms of work, it is proceeding everywhere. And wherever it comes, there is a trail of lost jobs and broken homes.

The remedy does not lie in stopping invention. That simply cannot be done. The remedy lies in making a fair distribution of the benefits of invention. Every discovery which lessens the need of human workers should be reflected in lower prices, shorter hours or higher wages—or all three; and definite rules must be worked out for compensating workers who are displaced by science and invention.

The fact that no one at the present time knows just what those rules should be only emphasizes the need of a prompt start at finding out.

Restricting Insurance of Unemployed

Elimination of Certain Classes Other Than Mechanical or Industrial May Become Necessary to Assure Federal Action.

To bring national unemployment insurance legislation within more readily definable limits, it has been practically agreed to eliminate from the provisions of the pending legislation certain classes other than mechanical or industrial. These excepted groups include farmers, domestics and small concerns, where the tenure of employment is fitful or subject to wide fluctuations. Non-profit making and charitable institutions would likewise be exempted from the provisions of such insurance legislation.

It is evident that in a scheme of such nation-wide magnitude there must be a gradual, and more or less restricted, approach to the ultimate goal sought. When any considerable part of the new system has been in successful operation for a reasonable time, it will afford a basis of calculation from which may be drawn definite bases of procedure for the future.

There is much diversity of opinion as to which of several proposals will best meet the situation. In the main, the proposal that seems to gain ground is that both the national government and the State authorities will have to assume not only some of the cost of the insurance but, together, or separately, manage its control and the conservation and disbursement of the general insurance fund. The one convincing point is, that such insurance—in some form, has become a moral certainty, no matter by what system arrived at. This is social progress.

Efficient in Feathering One's Own Nest

Bonus of Million and a Half for Eugene G. Grace For One Year's Services Naturally Makes Him Opposed to Government Managing Steel Plants.

Eugene G. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Co., told Senator Nye at a munitions hearing recently that he—Grace—believed that the government would be very inefficient in managing a steel plant, especially in war time.

From his own point of view, Mr. Grace undoubtedly is right. He has an efficient way of feathering his own nest which no government official would know how to imitate.

Mr. Grace collected $12,282,000 of "bonus" for his services to the Bethlehem Co. in the years from 1917 to 1931. During that same period he was getting a salary of from $12,000 to $101,000 a year. If a government official got a rakeoff like that from his job—and anyone found it out—he would spend a season of retirement and meditation in Atlanta or Leavenworth.

In one of those years, 1917, Mr. Grace's company cleared $61,800,000 in net profits; 43 per cent in a single year on a grossly inflated capitalization. It made this blood and iron profit after setting aside in the same year $1,501,000 "bonus" for Eugene G. Grace. This profit was a war profit, and the bonus in that year and the next was a war bonus. By the way, does Mr. Grace approve a bonus for the men who served in the war? Probably not. He told the Senate committee that he approved drafting men for service at the front, but that to draft capital by taking away its excess profits would be "different".

And in one way, Mr. Grace's testimony does show government inefficiency. That he could take such profits out of the nation in time of war and not go to the penitentiary for it is an evidence of ineptness on the part of some persons in the government which cannot be denied.

Prevailing Wage Rates on Relief Work

Washington Star Refers to Opponents' Efforts As a Means for Lowering Wages on Private Construction Work.

After the United States Senate had adopted by a vote of 44 to 43 the McCarran prevailing wage rate amendment, approved by the American Federation of Labor, to the $4,800,000,000 work relief resolution, the Senate recommitted the resolution to the Senate Finance Committee with certain Senators boasting that these tactics were resorted to in order to defeat the prevailing wage rate section. The amendment provided that mechanics and laborers employed on public works financed by the appropriation should be paid the wage rates prevailing in private industry in the various localities instead of the lower rates which had been recommended by the committee.

In an editorial criticizing the recommittal of the resolution the Washington, D. C., Evening Star said:

"There has been a philosophy in certain quarters in this country which holds that wages of labor must come down before prosperity can return. It is a philosophy of selfishness. The payment by the government of an average monthly wage of $50 to 3,500,000 workers on relief projects will have the effect of bringing lower wages to labor in private industry. It is a weapon to beat down wage scales that have been built up through years of striving by labor. Now, when it is proposed to pay the 'prevailing wage,' the usual wage paid by private industry for labor, on these work relief projects, a howl goes up that men will not go back to private industry under such conditions but will stick to their government jobs. The government is in a position to regulate this, even if it were true. It can give men work for three days a week at the prevailing wages, and thereby reduce their earnings per week far below what they would receive on a private job. Or it can cut off government jobs."

"Not gold but only men can make, a people great and strong; men who stand for truth and honor's sake, stand fast and suffer long."—Emerson.

Public Treats "Red" Movement With Too Much Indifference

With regard to the Communistic menace to Labor organizations, and to the stability of the government, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor had something startling to say at a recent Congressional hearing in Washington. Mr. Green appeared before the House Committee on the investigation of un-American activities and said, in part:

"I think the general public treats the Communist movement with too much indifference. The general idea is that there is just a small group here and there out parading, so just let them go.

Continuing his testimony, Mr. Green said that the so called Reds have been successful enough in the A. F. of L. to elect Federation delegates to the last convention, to organize control of the Fur Workers Union in New York, and to influence the San Francisco Longshoremen's strike. "They tried to turn that strike into a revolution."

With regard to the capture of the Fur Workers' Union details were given of acts of terrorism, sabotage and other crimes which have dominated that industry and exacted tribute from workers and employers alike. Mr. Green said, is but an instance of the general policy which Communists are set out to put into effect in other cities.

He also stated that there are half a million members of Communist organizations throughout the country. Undermining of regular labor organizations and terrorizing the managers of the industry thus attacked, are prime motives of Communistic activities.

With the facts and incidents related by Mr. Green, there is a good prospect of some action by Congress that will tend to offset such un-American principles and practices. New York and San Francisco testify to the nation-wide scope of this disruptive industrial and political influence.

LABOR QUERIES

Questions and Answers on Labor: What It Has Done; Where It Stands on Problems of the Day; Its Aims and Program; Who's Who in the Ranks of the Organized Toilers, etc., etc.

Q.—Where will the next convention of the American Federation of Labor be held?

A.—In Atlantic City, N. J., beginning October 7. Atlantic City was selected by the A. F. of L. Executive Council at its recent Washington meeting. Selection of a convention city was left to the Council by the San Francisco convention of the Federation.

? ? ?

Q.—Who is Edward A. Filene?

A.—Boston department store owner, who has vigorously advocated high wages in addresses throughout the Nation.

? ? ?

Q.—Did the American Federation of Labor support the movement for direct election of United States Senators?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Who is the workers' representative from the United States on the governing body of the International Labor Office?

A.—William Green.

? ? ?

Q.—Is there a broom makers' union?

A.—Yes, the International Broom and Whisk Makers' Union. Headquarters are in Chicago.

? ? ?

Q.—Has organized labor supported the development of waterways?

A.—The 1909 convention of the American Federation of Labor endorsed proposed deep waterways projects and asked Congress to appropriate money for their construction. Similar declarations have been made since then.

Q.—How are departments of the American Federation of Labor supported?

A.—By a per capita tax paid by affiliated national and international unions.

? ? ?

Q.—Did organized labor ever officially condemn the Ku Klux Klan?

A.—Yes. The A. F. of L. convention in 1922 and 1923 denounced the Klan as an interference with liberty and danger to the labor movement.

? ? ?

Q.—Have trade unions made studies of the sanitary and safety conditions in their industries?

A.—A number of unions, including those in the printing and garment trades, have made such studies. These surveys have usually included physical examinations of the workers to determine the effects of working conditions.

Q.—What is the usual minimum age for employment of children set by state legislation.

A.—While four states have set the minimum at 16 years, the majority cling to a 14-year minimum and allow, through exemptions, allow boys and girls less than 14 years of age to work in factories during school vacations because of poverty or other reasons.

? ? ?

Q.—Did Connecticut once find it necessary to pass a law prohibiting the employment in factories of young children?

A.—Yes. In 1855, Connecticut excluded children less than 9 years old from factories.

? ? ?

Q.—Is the Amalgamated Lithographers of America an old union?

A.—It was organized in 1882 and is thus one of the oldest affiliated organizations of the American Federation of Labor.

Miss Perkins Urges State Security Laws

Rochester, N. Y., Mar. 8 (ILNS)—Speaking here, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins asked popular support of the Legislature in adopting legislation to make effective President Roosevelt's economic security program. She said she believed New York would be among the first states to cooperate in the program to "promote the general welfare of the Republic."

"WHAT BENEFIT DO WE GET FROM THE UNION? WHY DOESN'T THE PRESIDENT ACT NOW? WE WANT TO KNOW!"

These Questions Asked at Medway Monthly Conference of Massachusetts Textile Council, Pertinently Answered by Organizer Belanger—Harold Daoust Elected New President—Next Meeting in Southbridge.

Medway, Massachusetts, March 6—The delegates who wanted to know what benefits are derived from affiliation with a labor organization at the monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Textile Council, held in Sanford Hall, Medway, last Saturday afternoon, and exercised considerable impatience over delay in Presidential action on matters pertaining to the textile industry, was answered primarily by Organizer William Belanger and in a manner which, judging from the applause accorded him, proved immensely satisfactory.

Addressing himself directly to the delegates, Organizer Belanger asked these and all other members to go back into the history of the textile industry during the past year and a half and compare present conditions with those in existence at that time, as well as the progress made by local unions since the general strike.

Mr. Belanger said local unions must not depend too greatly on what others will do for them. The one thing to remember, he said, was the fact that improved wages and conditions will come as the result of their own efforts. First, he said, it is most important that the local union be as nearly 100 per cent organized as possible. Secondly, that all members pay their dues promptly, and thirdly, that members manifest their interest in their local union by attending meetings regularly and in large numbers.

Strong and Formidable Local

"With an organization made up of staunch and sturdy members," he said, "there can be no question regarding its success. Instead of spending time in criticising the actions of superior officers and the government for its delay in bringing about improved conditions in the industry, members should discuss means for building up a strong and formidable local, and by this means make possible needed improvements through their own efforts.

"The international union provides all possible means to assist it by which its services are needed. The government, through the NRA, though working slowly and slow that unsatisfactorily, means to make organization easier; but as President Roosevelt said recently, the government cannot compel workers to become organized into trade unions, it must be voluntary on their part.

"This task," Mr. Belanger said, "rests with members of the local union, and if carried on aggressively there can be no question but what a local can attain that height of economic strength that will make possible needed improvements in wages and working conditions."

Organizer Belanger called attention to those locals in the Central Massachusetts district which had made material gains through the fact that they are strongly organized and whose activities have continued without interruption since they were instituted.

"Do you suppose for one moment that members of Farnum Local 2362 would have received more than $15,000 in back pay, and that one man alone would have received a check for nearly $350, had it not been for the fact that the local is 100 per cent organized and that the officers of that local have been untiring in their efforts to improve conditions since it was instituted?

Don't Wait for Government to Act:

"I could mention a number of other local unions in the district which have made excellent gains as the result of the proper kind of activities. Officials of these locals realized from the very first that it was a long of time to wait for the government to act in their behalf. Their first aim was to build up a solid phalanx. They didn't stop at this but sought out all possible means to keep their members minds focused on their organization. They planned social activities, while others extended their activities to civic affairs and urged their members to seek political office.

"I don't blame the member for expressing impatience over code authorities, the Textile Labor Relations and Work Assignments Boards and other agencies set up by the government for dealing with our industry. For more than a year we have been waiting patiently for action that would regulate the scurried stretch out, and for the adoption of a wage schedule that would take the skilled and semi-skilled workers out of the minimum wage class.

"We are assured the day is not far distant when this will be forthcoming. Let us exercise patience in the meantime, let us continue our task of building. Don't wait for the government, get busy and solidify your organization. Make it so strong that employers will realize that your local is not just a temporary organization, that you fully realize that your salvation depends upon it, and that you mean business," Mr Belanger said in closing.

Continuation of the present plan of two 40 hour shifts was urged as a means for providing employment for the greatest number, unless Congress should decide to establish the 30 hour week which is looked upon as the only solution for providing work for many thousands of unemployed textile workers.

SUPREME COURT GOLD DECISION SAVES LABOR AND DEBTORS FROM GIGANTIC DEFLATION CAMPAIGN

By ELLIOTT HARRIS

What the minority vote would have meant if adopted may be sensed from a few figures. It meant a write-up of debts compared to which the biggest exploits of public utilities in that line are feeble and small.

It was estimated when the cases came to the court that private debts containing the gold clause total at least $70,000,000. The evidence is that the figure is far too small, but let it stand. According to Justice McReynolds this debt burden on private business alone would have been increased $41,000,000. It would have broken practically every man who has a mortgage on his farm or his home. It would have been a transfer of wealth from debtor to creditor on a scale never known in the world's history. It would have increased the claims of capital so much that every effort would have been made to scale down the claims of labor, which would have meant the most ruthless and gigantic campaign of wage cutting ever undertaken.

Prescription for Chaos

It is not difficult to see that had there been a contrary decision the prescription for chaos and industrial paralysis would have been written.

Of main concern to the court was that, as Chief Justice Hughes was careful to point out, debts would be increased 69 per cent with no increase in the resources with which the debtor would have to pay.

Four Justices Dissent

Four associate justices—Brandeis Stone Roberts and Cardozo—joined in this view. Four others—McReynolds Van Devanter, Sutherland and Butler—dissented.

Justice McReynolds, speaking with out notes, denounced the decision as legalizing "the confiscation of property rights and the repudiation of national obligations."

PROFIT AND WAGE TREND THREAT TO U. S., NLRB MEMBER WARNS

New Orleans, Mar. 2—(LNS)—During the past year and a half the profits of business have boomed while the real wages of labor have increased only slightly, creating the same conditions that existed in this country in the period before the crash, Edwin S. Smith, member of the National Labor Relations Board, warned business and labor leaders and officials from five states at a regional labor meeting here.

The meeting, sponsored by the New Orleans Regional Labor Board, was marked also by an address by Monsignor P. H. Wynhoven, director in which he pointed out that the "country is still in a hell of a mess," that millions are unemployed, and other millions are not getting "enough for a decent living". "Things cannot go on as they are now, something must be worked out," he said. Urging that labor and capital work out their problems after pooling their knowledge, Wynhoven declared that "economic know things should certainly not expect to make big profits during the next few years."

Rev. Wynhoven declared that "capital has the privilege of making profits, as well as labor has the privilege of making wages." Long, but his share the wealth program is founded on a sound basis. The wealth of the land is held by the few while millions are in want he pointed out.

Labor must treat its banks of the bondholders and investors in the leadership throughout the country, but industry also had suffered through the activities of "bondsmen and racketeers."

Bill to Outlaw "Company Unions" Now Before Congress

Senator Wagner is again pushing his bill in Congress for settling labor disputes between workers and employers. The present bill is a revision of the former proposal by the Senator, which many of the old line conservatives then forcibly opposed.

One of its dominant features is the proposed outlawing of so-called "company unions," that camouflage on real

U. S. SENATOR ROBERT WAGNER

workers organizations who [illegible] decades been the bane [illegible] It provides [illegible] a permanent arbitration board to provide [illegible] by employers of all [illegible] and selects [illegible] personnel of the employees in the unit [illegible] that the majority [illegible] the right have [illegible] agreement for the [illegible] of Manchester and [illegible] the best opposition [illegible]

William H. Alexander member of the [illegible] representing [illegible]

Besides in the [illegible] the Wagner [illegible] representative of the A. F. of L. [illegible] collective bargaining [illegible] through [illegible] collective [illegible] [illegible] must be clarified [illegible] [illegible] lapping boards such as the Textile Board [illegible] be eliminated [illegible] National Labor Board [illegible] [illegible] jurisdiction over labor [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] must be final [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

RUMFORD

UNION RECOGNITION BY OXFORD CO. FINALLY AGREED UPON FOLLOWING LONG, HARD STRUGGLE BY LOCAL NO. 26

Officials of Rumford-Mexico Local No. 26 announce that after a long, hard struggle, they have finally succeeded in securing union recognition and on February 22nd the Oxford Company management agreed to meet a committee representing the union, to discuss matters pertaining to working conditions.

Much satisfaction is expressed by members of the local over this new turn of events, which they consider as an important medium for future dealings between the local union and the company.

"It is most gratifying," the local's correspondent says, "to note the change in sentiment on some of the finest employers toward trade unions. This is a good omen, and bids fair to become more general providing, of course, that our unions continue to demonstrate interest and solidarity."

Meetings of Local 26 are well attended and judging from the interest manifested in business and social affairs, gives excellent reason to believe there can be no doubt regarding the organization's future success."

Notes

Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers' Local 26, whose members are employed in the Oxford Paper mill, held an entertainment after the last regular meeting. Banjo solos, singing, step dancing and acts were enjoyed by the large number of members present.

The local of Paper Makers also held another of their enjoyable get-together dances in their hall and there was a goodly crowd present.

Brothers Gus Bilger and William Gruber are attending the convention of the International Union, now being held in Buffalo, and Ray Chambers of the Paper Makers, also is attending.

Both these local unions are rapidly gaining in membership, as the result of an intensive drive.

At this writing, it is still a slambang race for the presidency of the Maine State Federation of Labor, with Brother D'Avignon of the Rumford Central Labor Union going strong.

If anyone is bothered with ballitosis please see Brother Chambers, he has discovered a new use for Rinso.

The Central body is already in deep discussion concerning our next Labor Day celebration.

With a new wife, new dog and the vice-presidency for this district, Brother Charles McHale has his hands full.

SENATORS WAGNER AND COUZENS URGE PREVAILING WAGE RATE IN FEDERAL APPROPRIATION FOR RELIEF PROGRAM

Washington, D. C., Mar. 8 (ILNS).—Payment of the prevailing rate of wages under the 4,880,000,000 work relief bill was vigorously championed by Senators Wagner, Couzens and others during Senate debate on the McCarran amendment to the measure. The amendment would require payment of the prevailing rate of wages.

Calling the relief bill "the next step in the recovery program," Wagner condemned the wage clause written in by the Senate appropriations committee.

"Common business judgment tells us that such a proposal is absolutely impossible of execution," Wagner said after noting that the provision that the President may increase the $50 security wage if it threatens the private wage structure.

"The whole program is designed for completion in one year. It would take from three to six months for the effects of a lower scale to manifest itself in private industry, to be brought to the attention of the President, to be investigated, and to bring about revision."

The New Yorker declared he could not sit idly by and see the inauguration of the kind of "race to relief, that might drag down the whole private wage structures of the country."

Warns of "Exploiters"

"Bitter experience has taught us that wages seek the lowest level, and that even those who recognize the wisdom and the justice of fair pay cannot withstand the unfair competition of the private exploiter," said Wagner. "If the public projects under this resolution set rates of pay for full time work below those prevailing elsewhere, private industry will find this lower level with the certainty that the river finds the sea.

"The time has passed when we can dodge responsibility by calling everything relief and applying the standards of relief. If we are satisfied with relief alone, we shall never achieve economic reconstruction if those on public works are treated on a relief basis, every objective of public works will be defeated. Morale will be lowered, not restored; wages will go down, not up; purchasing power will shrivel, not expand; business will be demoralized, not stabilized. The wage policy of the New Deal will be thrown into reverse, and the business machine will be driven back into the deepest trough of depression."

Protection for Labor Urged

Senator Couzens spoke in support of a prevailing wage provision and quoted from NRA codes for the electrical, building, cement and iron and steel industries. He said these industries would profit most from enactment of the $4,800,000,000 bill and that industries, he said, are organized while the workers who will be employed are not.

"If it is desirable under the Recovery Act to protect the profits and stabilize the cost of cement, and to fix wages and maximum hours, there can be no justification for ignoring the giving of protection to the persons who are going to be employed under this act," he said.

LEWISTON

TEXTILE ORGANIZING WORK MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IN LEWISTON, DESPITE AGGRESSIVE OPPOSITION TO UNIONS

Independent Union, Started in January, Proved a "Flop" When Workers Were Told Instigator Was Former Stool Pigeon for Detective Agency While Employed in New Hampshire Mill—75 Per Cent of Those Who Joined Independents Now Members of U. T. W. of A. Local.

Organizing work in Lewiston, where much trouble has been experienced, even to the extent of hiring a hall for meeting purposes, is now going along splendidly and officials and organizers of the United Textile Workers of America now feel confident that Lewiston textile workers are well on the way to becoming organized 100 per cent.

Organizing textile workers in Lewiston proved a decided opposition from the very start of the organizing campaign. While other textile centers in the State of Maine were being organized with little difficulty for a year or so prior to the general strike, very little headway was made in the Lewiston section. There existed a barrier here which was only surpassed by conditions experienced in the South.

Opposition not only came from employers who were strongly fortified by city officials, local newspapers and the police, but by the bus, dress and professional men and the clergy.

There was no thought given to conditions under which the workers were compelled to labor. The size of their pay envelopes did not matter. What the opposition principally cared about was that they should be kept at work and by this means cause no interruption that would cost merchants any loss of trade.

Rock of Gibraltar

When the general strike occurred, and victories were won throughout the State, and almost generally throughout the New England States, Lewiston stood like the Rock of Gibraltar against any one with union sympathies entering its portals. Police were stationed at all entrances to the city. Halls were closed to all who desired to speak to textile workers, and the city was one of the few where mills continued to produce during the general strike.

City officials, manufacturers, newspaper editors, merchants, professional men, members of the clergy, and all others whose incomes are derived from the wages of the workers, gloried. These thought all danger of ever seeing Lewiston organized had been averted. They had accomplished a job when they kept the flying squad run out of the city and patted themselves on the back.

They were not aware that many hundreds of workers were clearly disappointed over not having had the opportunity to join in the general strike. When things became quieted down, Organizer Hebert and Pothier finally convinced U. T. W. of A. officials that the time was ripe for starting an organization campaign in Lewiston.

Last January, Vice President Hebert and Pothier left for Lewiston. Once there they established headquarters and began a campaign of education among the textile workers. Their efforts met with success from the very start. Within a few days after their arrival, Vice President Riviere, who spent a few days here last week in consultation with Organizers Hebert and Pothier, said he was most gratified over the progress made during the past few months, and expressed confidence that it won't be long before the Textile Unit is 100 per cent organized.

Vice President Riviere detailed Organizers Hebert and Pothier to carry on an aggressive campaign, and after two months of work, these report that a large organization now exists in Lewiston and that the situation bids fair to become 100 per cent organized.

Independent Union Busted

In the big program of opposition to the U. T. W.'s efforts to organize Lewiston, the manufacturers, it is said, encouraged the starting of an independent union. A man named Marcotte was selected to form the organization, and he had made little progress when it was discovered he had been a "stool pigeon" for a detective agency while working in a New Hampshire mill.

When told of this, the workers who had joined the independent union dropped their membership and joined the U. T. W. of A. local.

Vice President Riviere, who spent a few days here last week in consultation with Organizers Hebert and Pothier, said he was most gratified over the progress made during the past few months, and expressed confidence that it won't be long before the Textile Unit is 100 per cent organized.

Consolidation of Two Telegraph Companies Would be Tragedy

Claiming that the principal telegraph companies are engaged in "ruinous competition," that they are unable to pay dividends on their stock, and are pursuing a policy of mutual extermination, Frank C. Page, of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, advocated their consolidation. He also alleged that the two companies referred to, the Postal and the Western Union, gave preferential speedy service to favored patrons. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company, he described as subjecting both these companies to unfair competition.

Rebuttal was not lacking, a representative of the Western Union disclaiming unfair preference to large patrons. Extra speedy service was offered to those requiring the same, not exclusively.

Taking this matter as a whole, it is evident that for half a century and more the two companies have both rendered good service to the public. It was the Postal, however, that by its competition, greater energy to serve the public and in many cases lower rates, caused the Western Union to improve its service to a revolutionary degree.

It would be a calamity to the public to extinguish the great body of independent Postal workers and officials by consolidating them into a single mass. This would also be a tragedy for the ambitious people in the ranks and a sheer calamity for the public.

There is room in this country for two strong telegraph companies, as there is room for two great political parties. They provide balance, stability and a constant incentive to new accomplishments. Let well enough alone—in this last remaining independent field.

THE LABOR NEWS, 50c A YEAR

NRA CODE AMENDMENT INCREASES WAGES IN THE NEWSPRINT INDUSTRY

Washington, D. C., Mar. 8 (ILNS).—Wage increases for approximately 25,000 workers in the paper and pulp industry will result from a code amendment which has been approved by the President, a NRA announcement says.

Simultaneously, the National Industrial Recovery Board announced its approval of a similar amendment to the paper bag code which is expected to raise wages above the minimum for about 3,000 employes in that industry.

The amendments are the result of voluntary agreement between NRA and both industries, and represent the largest wage increase thus far effected through code revisions. They become effective as of February 6.

The amendments will increase by two cents per hour the present minimum for males of 38 cents in the North, 35 cents in the central zone, and 30 cents in the South. The increase also applies to female employes whose minimum wage of 30 cents per hour in the North and 30 cents in the central zone. The minimum rate of 30 cents per hour for female workers in the South remains in the code unchanged.

Office Pay Also Raised

Minimum rates of pay for office workers now ranging from $12 to $15 per week, depending upon population, also have been revised upward. This class of employes will, under the agreement, receive $16 per week in the North, $15 in the central zone, and $14 in the South, regardless of population.

The paper and pulp amendment is the direct result of a stipulation in the President's executive order approving the code, that further consideration be given the problem of determining the adequacy of the minimum rates. At that time the feeling was expressed that the minimum should not be less than 40 cents per hour.

Same Rates in Both Codes

Because of the close relationship between the paper and pulp and the paper bag industries and because the wage provisions in the two codes are identical, the amendment to the latter code provides for the same rates of increase.

In view of provisions in both codes providing for equitable adjustments of wage rates as minimums, it is expected the amendments will eventually affect 100,000 employes in the paper and pulp industry, and 5,000 in the paper bag industry.

Victory for Weirton Co. Sweeping But by No Means Conclusive

Influence of President, Belief in Effectiveness of Section 7 (a) of Recovery Act, Gives Reason to Believe That Amendments to Act, If Action to Continue is Favorable, Will Be Such as to Protect Unions Regardless of Court Decision.

After many days, the long and anxiously awaited judicial verdict on the case of the NRA against the Weirton Steel Company, which had failed and refused to comply with certain provisions of the prescribed code relating to their industry, was made public. Judge John P. Nields handed down the decision, which in effect held that Section 7 (a) of the National Recovery Act was unconstitutional.

But neither labor nor the Department of Justice accept the ruling as final. In this regard, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor is quoted as saying, in substance, that labor would not accept that decision and that public opinion would continue to demand that Labor should be free to organize and to utilize its economic strength for its own good and for the promotion of social and industrial welfare.

As reflecting the dominant position of Congress, Senator Robinson, Democratic leader, made a statement after the decision had been announced, confirming the overwhelming support of Congress in favor of the Section 7 (a) provision of the Act. He declared that this was to protect the rights of the workers, generally, to freely organize without any fear, coercion, interference or other hindrance upon the part of their employers.

Judge Nields, it was also stated elsewhere, could amend the legislation in any essential detail should it be considered necessary to do so. This may be done when the act is extended for two years more, as has been proposed by the President.

Judge Nields decision was based mainly upon the fact that "the Weirton company was not engaged in interstate commerce and therefore did not come within the power of Congress to legislate under that general authority." The Constitution does not give the right to regulate local manufacture."

The court also upheld the validity of the company union, as existing in the plant of the Weirton Steel Co.

While the decision is a sweeping victory for the defendant company, it is by no means conclusive. With both the President and Congress supporting Section 7 (a) in the NRA codes, there will be plenty of opportunity for further readjustment on these two disputed points. As a result case, it is important. But it puts the defendant and resisting company plainly in opposition to the government and to Labor. That would seem to be too great odds for the Weirton Company to successfully withstand ultimately.

WATERVILLE

WATERVILLE IS ENJOYING HIGHEST PEAK OF EMPLOYMENT IN LOCAL TEXTILE MILLS, WITH 3,000 AT WORK

An industrial boom has started in Waterville and surrounding towns, as evidenced by the fact that the highest peak of employment for a long time has been reached by the four textile mills in this section, with a record number of 3,000 workers on day and night shifts.

The greater portion of the 3,000 workers now employed in these mills are members of the United Textile Workers of America, and that these are a force in the economic, political and social life of Waterville and nearby towns has been forcibly attested through recent events.

At the recent city elections in Waterville, candidates endorsed by the unions were winners with but one or two exceptions. For the first time in many years the city will have a Republican Mayor through the election of Robert M. Jackson, who, since the death of former Mayor L. Eugene Thayer, Democrat, held the office of acting Mayor. His margin was 1148 votes over his Democratic opponent, Dr. T. C. McCoy.

In the social life of the city, United Textile Workers' Local 1802 was recently in the limelight, through its Mardi Gras costume party and ball held in Armory Hall, which was the most largely attended pre-Lenten social in the city. Many colorful costumes were worn by both men and women attending the affair, Judges were Georges Jalbar, organizer for the United Textile Workers of America; Charles Lewis of New York City, and Raymond R. Beaudry, representative of The Labor News.

The affair was conducted under the direction of officers of the organization and sub-committees. These included Charles Mahue, president; Joseph Poulin, vice-president; Julia Thomas, recording secretary; Nora Mahue, financial secretary and treasurer; G. Mathieu, warden; and Rose Picuck, conductor.

Mrs. Poirier, wife of United Textile Workers' organizer, Joseph S Poirier, now stationed in Lewiston, and her daughter were among the guests of honor.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE LABOR NEWS! HAS IT EXPIRED? LOOK UP YOUR LAST RECEIPT; THAT TELLS THE STORY!

Squire's New Store Opened for Business

Squire's new women's apparel shop which recently opened for business, is one of the most modernly equipped establishments of its kind in New England. This firm's former quarters were destroyed by fire and the management felt that in its re opening it should take advantage of the most up-to-date methods of merchandising, both from the standpoint of better service and in the most effective presentation of its exclusive line of women's and misses' garments by adopting the latest methods of window display and installing the best ideas in interior arrangements.

Silk Workers Adopt Definite Program at Pawtucket Meeting

At the conference held in Pawtucket last Saturday of local unions whose members are employed in silk mills and affiliated with the Silk Department of the United Textile Workers of America, a definite program was outlined regarding wages and working conditions to be established in all silk manufacturing centers.

Present at the conference were: General President Thomas F. McMahon, Vice-President Horace A. Riviere, and Miss Elizabeth Nord, organizer, with President Wood and Secretary Schweitzer of the Silk Department.

It was voted to call a meeting of all silk workers' local unions to be held in New York City some time in the near future, the time and place to be announced later.

THE LABOR NEWS, 50c A YEAR

BAR HARBOR

Fishing Great Sport While Unionists Wait For Spring Work

Secretary W E Barron of Carpenters Local 459 expresses regret over the fact that he has not more items pertaining to trade union activities to report for this issue of The Labor News.

"As has been the rule during ordinary times, members of building trades unions here have had little work during the Winter months, and for the want of something to do have turned their thoughts to the great and useful sport of fishing.

"Not only does this provide good pastime, but helps a lot toward providing food for their families. While the catches for the month have not been reported as being out of the ordinary (except by some who are inclined to tell fish stories) these have been pretty fair at best so far as the writer has been able to determine from conversations heard where fishermen congregate during dull times.

"Here are a few items picked up at random:

"Frank Haslem, president; J. S. Horton, vice president; Austin Gooch, financial secretary; and W. E. Barron, recording secretary, of Carpenters' Local 459, are at the fishing camp at Graham Lake several days last month ice fishing for pickerel, a fair catch of 35 finny beauties being the result.

"It is understood that Clarence Smith of the Carpenters' Local and Vice-president of the Bar Harbor Building Trades Council, is not catching many trout at Eagle Lake, even though he does do a lot of fishing.

"Austin Gooch has been visiting his father in Jacksonville, Me., for several weeks. The elder Gooch, who runs a store and the Post Office in Jacksonville, recently had a finger amputated which, together with neuritis, is causing him considerable discomfort and prevents his usual activity about the store and Post Office.

"Clinton Dalzell, assistant light keeper at Egg Rock lighthouse, two and one-half miles off Schooner Head, was drowned on March 2 while rowing ashore to the estate of Mrs. Morris Hawkes, on his way to the village. He leaves a wife and two children, who have the deepest sympathy of the people of this section of Maine.

"Bar Harbor's new brick Police Station has been completed. At the annual town meeting on March 4th, $1100 was appropriated for new furniture.

"Friends of Mrs Mary Barron are pleased to hear that she will soon be about again, after suffering from a painful injury to foot and ankle while descending basement stairs.

BANGOR

Social Gatherings Help to Create New Interest in Unionism

On Thursday evening, February 21, after the meeting of the Carpenters' Union, the members and several of their wives and friends participated in a Beano Party which was much enjoyed by all present.

"Such social gatherings have a tendency to increase the attendance at meetings and we feel it is worth while to have something for entertainment at different times," says Secretary John H. Ambrose.

"At our last meeting, March 7th, there was quite a lively discussion on some matters, and among other things the Union voted to endorse the action of the Chamber of Commerce and City Council in their efforts to bring into our city the Phifco Shoe factory, as this will tend to increase employment, which has been and is now so greatly needed."

We feel that with the coming of Spring and the expected increase in the building trades, it is quite probable that the general office of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners will order the initiation fee raised, and therefore it behooves us to get better acquainted with the purpose of joining the organization is so low."

UNION MEN AND UNION WOMEN

Do you realize that if you give in to indifference now and lay down to the elements of reaction that are working overtime to undermine everything that Organized Labor has won in the past, that you and your family are the ones who stand to pay the penalty, for such neglect on the part of labor to look after their interests during the trying days through which we are passing?

DINE AND DANCE
Cecil Hutchinson's Orchestra, Starting 8 P. M.
PRIVATE DINING ROOM FOR PARTIES
Beer or Ale on Draught, Also in Bottles
FULL COURSE DINNERS SERVED DAILY FOR 35c AND UP
TEMPLE GARDENS RESTAURANT
124 Main Street Waterville, Maine

FIRST NATIONAL STORES
CODE
Check these VALUES
You're all MONEY SAVERS!
Lenten SPECIALS
Everyone is looking for the best of Lenten Foods, and your local First National Store has the best. Why not stock up now?
CODFISH
Your choice of three outstanding brands of flaky, tasty codfish.
FINAST No Bone Lb Box 23¢
GORTON'S READY TO FRY CAKES 2 10 Oz Tins 25¢
BEARDSLEY'S Shredded 2 Pkgs 25¢
RICHMOND Sliced or Halves
PEACHES 2 Lge Tins 29¢
SANTA CLARA Large Size
PRUNES 3 Lbs Bulk 25¢
FINAST Cider
VINEGAR 2 Pint Bots 15¢
COFFEE New low regular prices
THAT IS ALWAY FRESH ROASTED
RICHMOND Lb 19¢
JOHN ALDEN Lb 21¢
KYBO STEEL CUT or IN THE BEAN Lb TIN 25¢
Pineapple Juice Finest 2 No 2 Tins 25¢
Wesson Oil Pure Wholesome Vegetable Oil Pt Tin 23¢
Marshmallows Campfire Lb Pkg 17¢
Black Iron Stove Polish Box 15¢
Oxol Bleaches - Deodorizes 2 Bots 25¢
Shredded Wheat 2 Pkgs 23¢
Palmolive Soap 3 Bars 13¢
Super Suds 2 Pkgs 17¢
Oven Fresh Bakery Specials
FINAST COOKIES Assorted 2 Lbs 25¢
WHOLE MILK BREAD 20 oz Loaf 9¢
CRACKED RYE BREAD 20 oz Loaf 9¢
RITZ CRACKERS 1 Lb Pkg 21¢
MACAROON CHIPS Lb Bulk 15¢
SOCIAL TREATS 8 oz Pkg 19¢
RICHMOND - CUT GREEN OR WAX
STRING BEANS 2 No 2 Tins 23¢
WHITE SPRAY - DELICIOUS
WHEAT CEREAL 2 20 oz Pkgs 29¢

OAKLAND

Members of Local 1752 Listen to Interesting Convention Reports

Aside from important matters acted upon at the last regular meeting of U. T. W. of A. Local 1752, these included election of Mrs. Isabelle Shorette to succeed Miss Bessie Mathews as recording secretary, and the installation of newly elected officers. The large number of members present listened to interesting reports of conventions held during the past few weeks.

These included the convention of the Woolen and Worsted Department of the U. T. W. of A. held in Providence and the monthly meeting of the Maine Textile Council. The reports, which covered minute details outlining activities and the progress made by local unions throughout New England, were delivered by President Leroy Shorette, Gladys Bremer and Jerry Coughlan.

President Shorette elaborated on the reports, and took occasion to mention several high lights concerning the progress made by the United Textile Workers, which he said is nearly the half million membership mark, with local unions in all textile centers in the United States.

"The amazing position reached by our organization among international unions in this country, both in numbers and improved conditions within a year," Mr. Shorette said, "should be heralded with great pride and every member should be imbued with a spirit to carry on to the end that our industry will take its place among the major industries as regards wages and working conditions."

Installation ceremonies were conducted by Mrs. Gladys Brewer.

Chain Store Held Guilty of Violating Section 7-A of NRA

New York City, Mar. 6 (ILNS).—The James Butler Grocery Company was given five days in which to comply with Section 7 (a), according to a four-page decision on the current strike of store managers and clerks, handed down by the Regional Labor Board.

The Regional Board found the Butler Company guilty of refusing to bargain collectively with "duly chosen representatives" of the employes. The board also found the company "took active steps to undo organization work which had been accomplished, with intent to prevent further organization."

The decision may affect the status of all chain store employes organizations, here and in other cities.

PRES. RECOMMENDS EXTENSION OF NRA FOR TWO YEARS

Suggests Clarification of the Present Law Fixing Minimum Wages and Hours, and Barring Child Labor, Which Expires in June

A New Method of Enforcing Codes to Provide Greater Protection for Employes to Organize for Collective Bargaining—While Not Stating So Specifically, Causes Belief That It Means Outlawing of "Company Unions."

The President has spoken, and it's now up to Congress to settle the question regarding the continuance of the National Recovery Act for two years after its expiration, which occurs next June.

According to reports following the President's message, in which he strongly urged continuation of the N. I. R. A., attempts were made by partisan representatives to ridicule the proposition, but most of the Republican members of Congress, it is said, however, were high in their praises regarding the message.

Included among these were Senator Borah, who is among those who found fault with the Recovery Act because it permitted the oppression of small business. He said the message seemed broad enough "to enable us to legislate effectively against monopolies. and I assume we will do so."

The highlights in the President's message, as it directly affects Labor, suggest a clarification of the present law which expires in June to empower the government to establish minimum fair trade practices and labor relations standards, fixing minimum wages and maximum hours, and further barring of child labor.

Enforcing Codes

The President suggests a new method of enforcing codes, probably by civil suits, and added protection to small enterprises against domination and oppression.

The President recommended protection for employes "freely to organize" for collective bargaining. It is said Members of Congress are not just clear as to their understanding of this part of the message, and some are of the belief that it is the President's hope to have legislation enacted to outlaw "company unions" in accordance with efforts made during the last session of Congress.

Besides Senator Borah, who highly commended the President's message, also came praises from Senator Nye, republican, of North Dakota, who has also on various occasions been more of less critical regarding the NRA, and who said:

"There is a very determined will in the message to have corrected any of the ills that may be shown to exist. I want to see a sweeping inquiry to document some of these charges of discrimination under NRA codes, the destruction that has come to the little man under the codes, following which we should be in a better position to write any renewal legislation that may be desired."

Senators "O. K." Message

Senator Wagner, Democrat, of New York, is quoted as having said: "I agree with the message and I'm for the extension of NRA with the modifications suggested."

Up to presstime, comments from Labor officials had not been made public. It is known, however, that the A. F. of L. is on record in favor of its continuance, and that in a recent conference with the President matters in dispute about the NRA, this applying especially to the codes, made an impression and that something constructive will result from new legislation.

DEFEAT OF McCARRAN AMENDMENT WOULD CAUSE UNMERCIFUL SLASHING OF WAGE RATES ON PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION WORK

The passage of Senator McCarran's prevailing wage rate amendment to the $4,800,000,000 work relief bill in the United States Senate recently, is proclaimed a victory for Labor, whose leaders during the past month had been incessant in their endeavors to have the amendment made part of the bill.

Passed as it was, over the objection of President Roosevelt, whose influence with Congress on all other matters has been paramount, makes the victory all the more important and often overlooked. If timid, or lacking sufficient backbone to become organized into bona fide trade unions, they become the victims of exploitation low wages and rotten working conditions. It is through organization that unsympathetic and greedy employers have been compelled to share a larger portion of their profits with their employes and to establish good working conditions

Would Wreck Efforts of 50 Years

Now, after efforts dating back 50 years, during which good conditions have been established, a move is made on the part of the government to encourage employers by setting a low-wage standard on public works. This, according to building trade officials, is playing into the hands of employers who, from time immemorial, have strenuously opposed wage standards set by the United States Government, States, counties and municipalities.

The President and these Democratic members of Congress who opposed Senator McCarran's amendment ought to know this, and their action in attempting to bring about its defeat is difficult to understand.

In his final plea for defeating the amendment, the President said:

"I think that the record of this Administration has demonstrated that in the administering of this legislation I will not permit anything to be done that will result in lowering the wage scale of the Nation."

Labor fully realizes the seriousness in which the President made this statement, but it does believe—basing its knowledge on past and present experiences—that even the machinery now in existence to deal with chiseling manufacturers is far from sufficient to make them "toe the mark."

What will be the final outcome is problematical. The amendment as this writing is still in committee and a final vote is expected at any moment.

12 Firms Lose and One Regains, Blue Eagle Rights

The National Industrial Recovery Board today announced it has deprived 222 firms of the right to use NRA insignia, and restored it to one other firm.

The Perennial Dye & Print Works, West Warwick, R. I., has furnished satisfactory evidence that it is now in full compliance with the code for the rayon and silk dyeing and printing industry and is making restitution of back wages due its employes. The right to use NRA insignia is, therefore, restored to the company.

The firms deprived of Blue Eagle rights and the code provisions which the National Compliance Council found they violated, are as follows:

Samuel Bros., Philadelphia, Pa.: Quaker Coal Co., Philadelphia, Pa.:

Human Relations In Industry

President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, Analyzes Situation in Major Industries in Address in Lifeguard Armory, Detroit, Recently.

In his address over the radio from Detroit, recently, on the subject of "Human Relationships in Industry," William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, traced the gradual emancipation of the toiler from slavery down through the successive stages of serfdom and peonage to the present day. At this time, Labor stands erect, has certain rights which are recognized and accorded by law and the old conception of "Hire any on one side and abject abasement on the other, has gone, never to return.

But, as Mr. Green explained, all the major industries do not learn the lessons of history. On the contrary, many persist in clinging to the past, with its out worn ethical standards and its medieval principle of autocratic power. In this respect, he singled out he General Motors Corporation, a giant combine, which has persistently opposed the efforts of its workers to organize and to secure collective bargaining, as has been made mandatory under the provisions of Section 7 (a) of the National Recovery Act.

Of all the large scale manufacturers in the country, said Mr. Green, the automobile industry has been the most recalcitrant in this respect. Even under the auspices of the Government established Labor Relations Boards, commissions and arbitrators, the self same purpose is manifest on the part of the General Motors Company and others in its class. They oppose, by every possible means, the orderly organization of their employes into real independent unions, as distinguished from the so-called "company unions". As is well understood, the latter are but a camouflage on the theory of unionization. Being company dictated, inspired and indirectly controlled, they do not, and cannot, truly represent the worker in his efforts to procure just and lasting agreements under the form of collective bargaining.

As distinguished from the bargaining efforts of the General Motors Co., Mr. Green mentioned some others which had taken the opposite viewpoint and were cooperating fairly with their workers. Three such concerns with which the employes have secured collective bargaining agreements are mention by him, as follows: Hupp, White Motors, and the Nash. In all of these plants the working conditions have been much improved, said Mr. Green, as a result of the better understanding arrived at between the several companies and their organized employes.

It was Mr. Green's hope and trust that the example set by these more progressive motor interests would convince the recalcitrants of the wisdom of realizing the factor of cooperative human relations in the motor industry.

VAST POSSIBILITIES ARE INVOLVED IN CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND TEXTILES

"Save the New England Textile Industry", is Slogan Adopted by Conference, Which is Discussing Means to Save Industry From Ruinous Competition.

Foreign Competition, Especially From Japan, is a Factor of Prime Importance in the Discussion Appeal to Be Made to President for Mode of Equality Between Mills in New England and Those of Southern States Processing Tax Comes In For Considerable Criticism, as Does Also Increased Rates on Coal for Manufacturing.

"Let us try to save the textile industries of New England!"

This is the purpose animating the efforts of the Governors of the several New England States, together with other high State officials, prominent industrialists and legislators. A conference recently held in Washington was filled with great potentialities for success or failure of this effort to save for New England one of her chief industries.

The first point of controversy involves the question of equalization of wages as between the Northern and the Southern mills. In the case of the latter, it is seen at, once that the mills of the South are close to the source of supply of raw material, cotton. Moreover, there is not the necessity of large expenditures for fuel during the Winter time, as is the case with New Englanders.

Foreign competition, especially from the Japanese, is also a factor of prime importance. During the past two or three years, Japan was an immense importer of American cotton purchased at a price of five cents, or there abouts, per pound, whereas the cost of production is stated to be 12 cents in American money, or the world standard. This fact, together with the ab normally long hours and pittance wages customary in Japanese textile factories, make it out of the question for American higher priced labor and with high-priced cotton, to make any effective attempt to compete with Japan in this respect. England, also is in much the same category as the United States, with regard to her badly curtailed cotton cloth exports, owing to the tremendous inroads of Japanese textile competition. All these things will have to be considered at the Washington conference of the representatives of the New England textile industry.

Appeal to President Roosevelt

It is said that an appeal will be made to the President to use his best efforts to provide a real mode of equality as between the mills of New England and those of the Southern States, so as to remove the handicap under which it is claimed New England is suffering. This is one of the main factors threatening the existence of her most extensive textile industries. Reopening of the cotton code is one step that will be asked for to initiate the suggested reform.

Many of the New England manufacturers have loudly protested against the processing tax which automatically raises the price of raw cotton by four and a quarter cents, almost as much as Japan paid altogether for the cotton which she imported a few years ago. What they desire is, the abolishment of this processing tax and an increased tariff against destructive foreign competition, especially that from Japan.

And there is yet another factor which seems to have been lost sight of. That is, as we permit exports of cotton to be manufactured into cloth, and expect that such goods shall not thereafter come into competition with our domestic products.

Why Not Sell Surplus Cotton to Our Textile Mills at Minimum Cost?

It is stated on this date that the surplus cotton now on hand consists of three million bales of cotton which is costing the government, including interest and other charges, $40 a bale, or a nominal cost. Surely this would get rid of the surplus, and at the same time, make it possible for more workers to be employed and better wages to be paid the textile industry needs every encouragement. Destroying cotton and adding a superficial tax to the cost of production to offset the cost of destruction, is to struggle the textile industry, not to improve it.

The United Textile Workers of America have long served notice that conditions in that industry are far from being satisfactory, and that if there is no relief and speedily in favor of the workers this Summer a strike greater and more prolonged than the last one will be more than probable. The union demands more equitable representation on Labor boards having to do with the formulation of codes and the enforcement of their provisions, as heretofore.

Prominent among those who took part in the conference were Governor Louis J. Hrann and Members of Congress from this state, Governor James M. Curley and Members of Congress from Massachusetts, a representative of the Governors of Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut, and representatives of industry and labor.

Increased rates upon coal, for manufacturing purposes, is given as another factor tending to retard recovery in the New England industrial States. This is held to be another indirect way to penalize New England for the benefit of other States. As such, it will be contested with vigor.

Processing Tax

The hearings are bringing out some illuminating facts—which should have been brought out long before this time! Mainly, it is shown that despite existing cotton, levying a processing tax and adding to the cost of manufacturing cotton cloth, is not the way to revive industry in the textile field. Instead, it makes it impossible for our domestic manufacturers, and especially our New England mills, to successfully meet foreign competition.

It has been urged upon Washington that, if the cotton growers of the South must be government aided, it would be better to grant them a direct subsidy, rather than to pay them either for destroying their product or for not raising cotton at all. It is held to be vital to the very life of New England textile mills that they should have an abundant supply of raw cotton and at a price that will enable them to compete with foreign manufacturers, particularly those of Japan.

Present Plan Aids Foreign Manufacturers

Moreover, as we reduce our cotton production, the remainder of the cotton growing countries are proportionately increasing their production! In other words, we are playing directly into the hands of our foreign competitors for the world's yield of cotton raising and cotton cloth manufacture.

What we need is a proper tariff against unfavorable wage cotton cloth production. Then, every effort should thereafter be bent to see to it that our textile mills have an abundance of a cheap and abundant supply of raw cotton. This will make it possible to do away with the stretchout system and to pave the way for better wages and working conditions. At present, we are penalizing our own textile manufacturers, and through them, their unfortunately handicapped workers, struggling with domestic discrimination and ruinous foreign competition.

ORGANIZED LABOR IS "THROUGH" WITH AUTOMOBILE LABOR BOARD, SAYS PRES. GREEN AT HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARING

Washington, D. C., Mar. 5 (ILNS)—"Equal representation on administrative bodies is a prerequisite to satisfactory relations between employers and employes, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor told the House Labor Committee, in speaking in support of the Connery bill for equal representation with industry on Government agencies.

One of labor's greatest desires is equal representation with industry on NRA code committees and other NRA administrative bodies and agencies, Mr. Green declared. He assailed the Automobile Labor Board and urged development of an economic system which will provide work for all.

The labor head said that labor desired a board in the automobile industry similar in make-up to that working under the steel code.

The auto board never has ordered a man reinstated, nor has it made any decision favorable to labor, Green said.

"We will stand for a good deal, but when we see the go-up is completely leaned against us, we get through," he said. "We're through with the Automobile Labor Board."

Mr. Green testified that out of 549 NRA codes, labor was represented on only 52, or slightly less than 10 per complete way and been given a percent.

"We believe that had labor been brought into the picture in a more worst blows labor had received.

per voice, a substantial degree of success would have come from the NRA," he said.

Green told the committee that the first function of government is to develop an economic policy which will give gainful employment to all, and allow all persons to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Wisely cannot give employment to workers, he said, it is the duty of the government to provide some form of relief or employment to keep them occupied.

The hearing ended with an attack by Green upon Donald R. Richberg. He said that Richberg, who posed for the rallroad unions, had been known as a radical who had to be kept tied down in order to keep his forward tendencies from running rampant. Now, Green said, he has become a representative of industry in the recovery administration.

He charged that blame for the automobile code's unfairness to labor could be attributed directly to Richberg, and said that his ruling authorizing proportional representation for collective bargaining was one of the

American Legion Heads Take Bad Attitude Against Strikers

Worcester, Massachusetts, Mar. 5—Adverse criticism was made at Wednesday night's C. L. U. meeting over the antagonistic attitude by state officials of the American Legion, who are sponsoring a bill in the Legislature to make it more difficult for workers to improve their conditions when it becomes necessary to resort to strikes.

Transcript of an article taken from local newspaper, which quoted Legion official as having referred to the Southbridge textile strike as a "bedlam of communism" and that disorderly conditions there had been seriously affected, was read and this caused several delegates to express themselves in anything but a favorable manner toward Commander Walsh and other officials, who, while on the one hand have manifested friendship for Labor, on the other hand takes occasion to "stab it in the back".

Delegates who were closely connected with the strike, averred that during the entire controversy not a single communist appeared on the scene. That, except for disturbances which for the most part were caused by the presence of State troopers, clothing transported to make the Southbridge strike any different than any ordinary strike.

Statements by Walsh and others, to the effect that business had suffered considerably as the result of the strike, were denied by many South bridge merchants as saying that the Sunday trade, during the height of the strike, had surpassed any year since 1929.

Labor must watch out for this over patriotic element," one delegate declared, who for the most part are prompted in their activities by Labor's antagonists. He recalled the campaign in Idaho, which labor, joined by the Legion and other patriotic organizations, placed on the statutes a syndicalism law.

"It was but a short time later," he said, "when, following a coal mine strike, that a group of miners were jailed under the very act which Labor had cooperated with the Legion to put over.

There was much other criticism—which terminated with a motion to enter a vigorous protest against Commander Walsh's action to make Legion and National officers of the Legion's

Senate Sub-Committee Favors 30-Hour Week Bill by Vote of 4 to 1

Washington, D. C., Mar. 6 (AFL)—The sub committee of the U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, headed by Senator Matthew M. Neely (D., W. Va.), which has been conducting hearings on the Black 30 hour work week bill, favors the bill by the wide margin of 4 to 1.

A poll of the five members of the sub committee showed the following result: For the 30-hour bill, Senators Neely, McCarran, Norris and Hatch; Against, Senator Austin (R., Vermont).

The bill is to be reported to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and from there to the Senate floor, and reported to the Senate. Final adoption of this extremely important measure is fraught with great hope for organized Labor is still aware that the fight must be continued unrelentingly until the 30-hour work week actually becomes the law of the land.

Starving Farm Animals Win $500,000 Food Appropriation in Minn.

St. Paul, Minn., Mar. 5 (ILNS)—Needy farmers from western Minnesota brought three starving, hollow eyed animals—a horse, a cow and a pig—to the State capitol on February 27 to show legislators that they must have food appropriations.

The farmers backed their truck up against the plaza of the capitol. Legislators entering the building couldn't help but see the mute appeal.

Within a few hours after the farmers had brought the animals to the capitol, the state house is convinced of the seriousness of their plight, a bill providing immediate appropriation of $500,000 for feed was introduced in the Senate and passed by unanimous vote.

A&P Appreciation Week

WE THANK YOU for the great way in which you helped to make our sale last week a success! We appreciate it. Your friendship and our enthusiasm to serve you we have planned another long list of values which runs out hundred last week. Another opportunity to save the A & P way.

HEINZ SOUPS	All Varieties	2 10-ounce cans	25c
HEINZ KETCHUP		14 oz. bottle	18c
HEINZ PICKLES	Fresh Cucumber	12-ounce bottle	23c
HEINZ SPAGHETTI		3 13½-ounce cans	25c
HEINZ BABY FOODS	Strained	3 4½-ounce cans	25c
HEINZ CHILI SAUCE		jar	23c

Orange Week

Large size Very Juicy Wonderful flavor dozen 33c

Extra large, ideal for Desserts or Orange Juice dozen 39c

A-Penn Motor Oil 100% Pure Penn. Oil 2 gal. can 91c Plus tax 8c 99c

Specials This Week

TOILET PAPER	Waldorf	6 rolls	25c
Kirkman's Soap		4 cakes	17c
Lux Toilet Soap		3 cakes	19c
MELLO WHEAT		28-ounce package	15c
Sardines	Underwood's	Domestic	4-ounce can 6c
Cod Liver Oil		½ pint bottle	19c
PINEAPPLE	Del Monte Crushed - Sliced	30-ounce can	19c
Corn Starch	Sunnyfield	16-ounce pkg.	7c
Fig Rings	Uneeda Baker's	lb.	19c
CRAB MEAT	6½-ounce can	13-ounce can	49c

New Low Coffee Prices

Wholesale coffee prices have dropped—so as usual, A & P passes the saving on to you.

BOKAR, Vigorous and Winey	lb. 25c
RED CIRCLE, Rich and Full Bodied	lb. 21c
EIGHT O'CLOCK, Mild and Mellow	lb. 19c
CONDOR	lb. 30c
CHASE & SANBORN'S	lb. 30c
LA TOURAINE	lb. 30c
MAXWELL HOUSE	lb. 31c

RED CROSS TOWELS 2 rolls and Fixture 37c

JELLY EGGS Fresh Stock, lb. 10c

Soda CRACKERS 2-lb. box 19c

Graham CRACKERS 2 lb. box 19c

Ann Page Long 20 Ounce Loaf 9c

Grandmother's Big 20 Ounce Loaf 9c

NEW LOW REGULAR PRICES 42-oz. A & P

Naphtha Powder	2 pkgs.		25c
B & M Clams	5½-ounce can		12c
Ivory Soap	2 Medium cakes		11c
Pea Beans	Michigan	4 lbs.	19c
Sugar	2 1-lb. pkgs.		13c
Peaches	Confectioners' Iona	29-ounce can	17c
Yeast	Fleischmann's	cake	3c
Iona Cocoa	2-lb. can		19c
Super Suds	11-ounce pkg.		9c
Pink Salmon	2 tall cans		23c
Kellogg's All Bran	18-oz. pkg.		20c
H-O Oats	20-ounce pkg.		12c
Force	2 10-ounce pkgs.		25c

Tall Boy Tomato Soup 28-oz. can 10c

Snider's Vegetable Soup 28-oz. can 10c

EVR-REDY DOG FOOD $ cans 19c

Case of 48 cans $3.00

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Bunch Carrots	2 bunches 13c
Florida Oranges, Valencia	5 lb. bag 25c
Tomatoes	lb. 19c
Texas Grapefruit	4 for 23c
Winesap Apples	6 lbs. 25c
42 lb. box	$1.69

At Our Meat Markets

LAMB CHOPS, Choice Quality, Soft-meated	RIB lb. 29c
	KIDNEY lb. 89c
LEAN HAMBURG, Fresh Ground	lb. 19c
CUBE STEAK, Heavy Corn-Fed Steers	lb. 39c
BEEF LIVER, Sliced	2 lbs. 29c
HEINZ BULK PICKLES	SWEET lb. 27c SOUR lb. 19c
	SWEET MIXED lb. 33c

PRICES APPLY PORTLAND AND VICINITY

THE GREAT ATLANTIC & PACIFIC TEA CO.

GORMAN DECLARES USE OF STATE TROOPS IN MILL WALK-OUT IS TERRORISM

Georgia Governor is Seeking to Intimidate Callaway Employes Through Force, Textile Workers' Official Charges—Says Gov. Talmadge Introduces First Element of Violence Into Strike.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 11 (ILNS)—Use of state troops in the strike situation at Manchester and LaGrange, Georgia, at this time can have no moral or social justification, Frank J. Gorman, vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, declared here.

It is questionable whether, under the laws of Georgia, Governor Talmadge has the legal authority to call out the troops in a situation that is orderly and peaceful, and in which there is no semblance of disorder or violence, Gorman added.

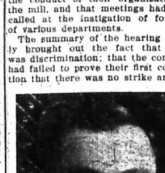
"By his action, Gov. Talmadge introduces the first element of violence and peace into this strike," Gorman asserted. He continued: "His use of the bludgeon force of state arms in a peaceful and orderly situation can have no more justification than would be his dispatch of state troops to suppress the activities of the officials and erintend a meeting of the Callaway Mills, stockholders of the Callaway Mills, which are concerned in this strike.

"This strike arises through controversy and difference of opinion between the officials of the Callaway Mills, with plants at Manchester, LaGrange and elsewhere in Georgia, and the employes over the introduction of the 'stretch-out' scheme of work-load known as the Bedeaux system. This system is designed scientifically to put a premium on over-exertion by the individual worker in his daily task. It is a weapon that is being used with increasing frequency in the American textile industry to bring down wages to a minimum level.

"The unions of employes of the Callaway Mills voted to strike when the management announced that this system would be put into operation on February 25. Their action has been peaceful throughout. There has been no violence or threat of violence. The workers are seeking by peaceful and orderly discussion with the management to adjust their differences.

"For Governor Talmadge to throw state troops into these mill towns is not only an introduction of force and potential violence into the situation, but it is an act of intimidation and frighten these workers into receding from their opposition to the Bedeaux system and accepting the 'stretch-out' proposal of the management with no further protest.

"If there should be any violence in connection with the strike at the Callaway Mills, let it be remembered that Gov. Talmadge himself has introduced the first element of force and violence into this situation, and sought by the use of a power of the state to put the striking workers at the mercy of the mill management and to defeat them in their negotiations with the management."



HORACE A. RIVIERE

verted to their only escape of discrimination or punishment for the charge that Section 7 (a) of the National Recovery Act was unconstitutional.

A. F. Rooney conducted the hearing very ably and has the admiration of all the strikers for his splendid attitude of justice shown both parties.

It is certain proof that the arm of the law extends to every nook and corner of the country and Rooney is to be congratulated, though it might be in the farthest point north of Washington. I believe that this case will be a guide to the employers of the State of Maine that the freedom of the workers is not to be jeopardized in any way whatsoever.

It is opening a new vista of light to the workers who have been so long intimidated by employers in the past history of the industry.

The workers have waited and suffered many hardships for this hearing. Mr. Jabar said, "and now feel that it was worth while suffering for. They were mighty well pleased with the splendid manner in which Mr. Rivieres and their case was handled, there is no doubt in their minds regarding the outcome of the hearing, as they are firmly convinced that the board will rule in their favor.

CONNERY BILL TAKES FEDERAL ARMS OUT OF STRIKE-BREAKING BANDS

Measure Bars Employment of U. S. Military Equipment Without Secretary of War's Express Permission—Proposal of Special Interest to Workers of Georgia, Whose Governor Used Federal Munitions to Break Strike.

Washington, D. C, Mar. 6 (ILNS)—Congressman Connery of Massachusetts has introduced a bill—Joint Resolution No. 14—to take Uncle Sam's military equipment out of the strike-breaking business. It provides that no federal equipment, arms, munitions or any form of war material belonging to the Federal Government, shall be used by state troops on strike duty without the express permission of the Secretary of War.

This bill is designed to end one of the meanest anti-labor grafts that even Big Business and its political henchmen have been guilty of. It should be especially interesting to the workers of Georgia, smarting under the injustice of the mischievous clown whom they were tricked into electing governor.

Eugene Talmadge was running for his second term in the governor's chair when the textile strike came. The primary is the real election in Georgia as in most of the South. Whoever wins the nomination in the Democratic primary is elected. Workers tried in vain to find what Governor Talmadge proposed to do, but until the votes were counted, and he had a safe lead for the nomination, he wouldn't tell.

Talmadge Shows Hand

Then he struck. First he ordered two companies of state militia to Cartersville. He ordered out others almost hour by hour, until in three days 40 companies of Georgia militia, all of them more or less equipped with Federal supplies, were doing all the governor could make them do to break the textile strike.

Two hundred pickets were seized and herded into a detention camp just outside Atlanta. Another 130 were arrested at the mill town of Newman. Others were arrested in other places until Talmadge thought he had the strike smashed. He doesn't understand yet how the strikers held out.

Talmadge's attitude may be judged from an article which he wrote for the Manufacturers Record, anti-labor organ of the mill bosses.

Opposes Basic Labor Rights

"When anyone quits a job," he wrote, "he doesn't have the right to hang around the place of business and interfere with anyone else who wants to work on the job."

The right to strike is one of the basic rights of labor everywhere, and the right to picket peacefully has been upheld by high Federal courts. But this made no difference to Talmadge.

The A. F. of L. made a vigorous protest against Talmadge's lawless violence.

To which Talmadge replied with a tirade calling labor leaders "loafers and bluffers." They don't know what labor is," he bawled. "They got hard heads and weak muscles."

At least, if this bill in Congress goes through—and it will be pushed vigorously, Talmadge still may sponge on Washington for relief; but if he wants to break any more strikes, he will have to look elsewhere for uniforms, rifles, munitions and the rest.

LABOR TAKES PROMINENT PART IN DEDICATION OF LABOR DEPARTMENT'S MAGNIFICENT BUILDING IN WASHINGTON

More Than 2000 Participate in Formal Opening of $4,500,000 Edifice in Nation's Capital—Assistant Secretary of Labor Edward F. McGrady Presides—Mine Workers and Other Union Organizations Furnish Music.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 3, (AFL).—The dedication of the new $4,500,000 Department of Labor Building at Constitution Avenue and Fourteenth Street was attended by over two thousand people, including Government officials, representatives of labor from all sections of the United States, and members of the Diplomatic Corps. The ceremony was held in the Government Auditorium, which is the joint assembly headquarters of the Labor Department and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

President Roosevelt in a letter, read by Assistant Secretary of Labor Edward F. McGrady, who acted as chairman, declared that the Department of Labor is "dedicated to the working people of the Republic and is being administered for their economic advancement and their physical well-being." The President's Cabinet was represented by Secretary of War Dern and Secretary of Commerce Roper.

Secretary Perkins Speaks

He then presented Secretary Perkins, who voiced her appreciation for all those who had contributed to the new building. The structure, she said, is full of beauty, grace, comfort and efficiency," and "symbolizes the change that has come over the working people a lot in America." She said her department is developing an improved technique for turning into a reality the vision which many had for improving labor's status, and added that representatives from 39 national labor organizations and 14 State federations of labor, as well as many other friends of the department were present. Stressing the breadth of labor's activities, she pointed out that United States border patrolmen stood at attention at both [illegible] of the auditorium.

Green Stresses Trade [illegible]

President William Green [illegible] account of the work of the American Federation of Labor in developing the federal labor statistics bureaus from 1881 to the establishment of the Department of Labor and expressed the belief that in its new home the department may make vital its primary purpose to promote the welfare of working men and women throughout the United States.

Dr. ZeBarney T. Phillips, Chaplain of the United States Senate, gave the invocation. The benediction was by Right Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan.

The United Mine Workers Band of West Virginia contributed a colorful touch to the ceremony. They appeared in blue overall suits and miners' caps.

Musical Entertainment

At the conclusion of the formal dedication ceremony an entertainment program was given by labor musical organizations, which Secretary Perkins said constitute a distinct part of a new cultural development spreading rapidly among working people.

James C. Quinn, secretary-treasurer of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and vicinity, sang "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" by Friedman and "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" by Ball.

The Melddy Strollers," an orchestra of the United Textile Workers of America, from Spartansburg, S. C., rendered a number of folk songs.

The Department of Labor Cresendo Male Chorus sang the Negro spirituals "Swing Along Children" and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

The program was closed by Secretary Perkins with a reception in the green and gold auditorium conference suite, where punch was served. Music for the reception was furnished by the Government Printing Office Orchestra, under the direction of William C. Buckingham.

AS MAINE GOES

(Continued from Page 1)

though further improvement can be made in the living conditions of those who devote their lives to the building of Maine's great textile industry.

The shoe manufacturers in Maine also benefiting from improved business conditions but this largely at the expense of the workers. For this, Maine's third largest industry, has not yet been organized and the benefits that accrue to workers in the paper and textile fields who are identified with the American Federation of Labor, have yet to come to this large group of workers. However, it is believed that organization work will soon be started in this industry, and along the same constructive lines that have marked the expansion of the other two great unions of Maine.

Attracting New Industries

Portland, the gateway to Maine, seems destined for a better share of the prosperity that has already come to other Maine cities, through efforts to make the city the important shipping port that it once was, and attracting new industries to Maine's largest community.

On top of all this, comes the tourist business, which ranks well with any other industries of the State. From all sides one hears that the 1935 season will eclipse that of previous years, because of the fact that more Americans are 'Seeing America First' now—even from the standpoint of patriotism and a desire to acquire greater knowledge concerning their own country, but because it is cheaper on the pocketbook—in that the American dollar has depreciated in foreign funds.

The Quoddy Project

While I found many people in favor of the Quoddy project, and some go so far as to say that the Legislature may favor the proposition; others who see the project as an experiment picture it as one that is likely to cause considerable trouble.

For instance, one man said in giving his views concerning the Quoddy project: "The Legislature should carefully count the cost before committing the State to any such dangerous and costly experiment.

"Even though the project as originally planned were practical and economically sound, it is far too broad in scope and confers powers never before granted in this State, or possibly any other.

"As the proposed corporation which would have charge of the project would not be bound to figure the cost as present public utilities are compelled to do, it would force the latter out of business. If so, what would become of the people's money deposited in banks and invested in insurance companies?" he asked. "These would be at the mercy of the board of directors and the directing agency of the PWA in Washington."

On the other hand, I found those who favored the project as believing that only through the introduction of such projects will it be possible to secure cheap electric power and light, and give like consideration as to what might happen to present methods of production and finance.

"The Quoddy project is one that is causing considerable discussion all through the State, and opinions vary to such an extent as to make it difficult for the average person to come to an intelligent conclusion.

In my belief, the proposition is of much importance and so that it might be clearly understood by all who are interested, I would suggest ia mass meeting be held in the largest available hall, at that both sides of the question be discussed by those who are thoroughly versed in all phases of the question."

The people are greatly concerned in this project and its importance demands the greatest possible consideration before it is finally acted upon.

S. CLAY WILLIAMS

(Continued from Page 1)

tion to the fact that Williams represented the tobacco industry at the hearings on the cigarette code. The code finally signed by the President was unsatisfactory to him and bitterly resented by the cigarette workers; who insist that Williams is responsible for a year and a half of delay, and a bad job at the end of it. He is also accused of being the power behind the throne in the latest extension of the automobile code.

"The resignation of Mr. Williams comes five months too late and one month too early," declared I. M. Ornburn, secretary of the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L. and president of the Cigar Makers' International Union, when he received the news. Mr. Ornburn in this refers to the fact that Williams is likely to be summoned before the Senate Committee which starts an investigation of NRA within a month.

AIDING SHARE-CROPPERS

(Continued from Page 1)

The investigating committee report, now past due, has not been made public, and the sedition bill, because of both national and state protest, has not come out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This "nuisance" bill, however, is aimed directly at the college and is so worded, that after the Legislature would close Common Wealth, the bill would have no further use and henceforth be shelved.

PAPER MAKERS

(Continued from Page 1)

situation, referring in particular to a mass meeting held in Augusta last June, at which were represented all paper making local unions in the State.

As in past years, both organizations of the paper making industry held their conventions at the same time and place. According to Mr. Sullivan, the Brotherhood of Paper Makers passed resolutions and discussed matters similar to those of the Pulp and Sulphite Workers, and a joint meeting of both brotherhoods was held following adjournment of both conventions.

March Seventeenth, A Fateful Date For Two Nations!

Nothing could better illustrate the irony of fate than the fact that it was on the 17th of March, 1776, that the British evacuated Boston. This was in response to the knowledge that if they did not do so, a bombardment would ensue that would effectually accomplish that purpose on the part of the beleaguering American troops. So, the British marched out—and left grand and historic St. Botolph's Town to the defenders of their country!

But, perhaps the British command, oppressed with the critical situation, did not recall that March 17th also marked the birth of St. Patrick, Ireland's great patron Saint? For centuries, unhappy Ireland had been under the unfeeling and ruthless control of dominating and aggressive British. Her land was fertile, but some slain or driven to exile, her churches and monasteries destroyed, her people placed under an unbearable feudal system, yet Ireland never yielded up her soul nor her will to survive all these terrible afflictions.

And to think that on the anniversary of the birth of St. Patrick, March 17th, the British should haul down their colors and yield up the capital city of Boston, of all dates! Surely, the hand of Providence must have been in it?

Today, Ireland is free, in a large measure. No longer are Papists persecuted, their lands despoiled, and priests hanged wherever found as was once the case. The world moves on.

The surrender of Boston, on March 17th, 1776, marked the culmination of a centuries old oppression and the acknowledgment of a new force for freedom born into the world. St. Patrick's Day is linked with the 19th of April, two epochal dates in history, not only of this country, but of the world. The shamrock thus makes a fitting background for the Pilgrims' Mayflower blossom. May they both survive unto the end of time!

Wife of Paper Workers' Vice-President Dies in Worcester Home

Mrs. Anne (Wallace) Sullivan, wife of Herbert W. Sullivan, vice-president and general organizer for the Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers of the United States and Canada, died last Sunday at the family home, 88 Brandon road, Worcester.

Mrs. Sullivan was born in Kingston, N. B., and had been a resident of Worcester during the past ten years. Besides her husband, she is survived by two sons and four daughters.

The funeral was held today from the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, with burial in St. John's cemetery.

Mrs. Sullivan had been ill for several years and, growing worse last Friday, word was sent Mr. Sullivan, who was attending the annual convention of the Brotherhood in Buffalo. She passed away a few hours after his arrival home.

OLDTOWN OVERSEER

(Continued from Page 1)

THREE COURTS TAKE WALLOPS AT WORKERS' RIGHTS UNDER N. R. A.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 5 (ILNS)—Three courts last week slugged hard at those parts of the Recovery Act which were intended to protect the rights and liberties of labor. Two Federal courts, one in Kentucky and one in Delaware, declared the act unconstitutional in whole or in part. One State court in New York, not to be outdone in bidding for the front-page, drew legal distinctions between the rights of union workers and those of white collar workers. All in all, the enemies of labor and of the Recovery Act had a full week.

Judge John P. Nields, of the Federal district court of Delaware, dismissed the government's suit against the Weirton Steel Co. from injuring the rights of employes in their elections to choose representatives for collective bargaining. Judge Nields held, that steel manufacture is not interstate commerce, and therefore that Congress had no authority over it, and Section 7 (a) did not apply.

Witness after witness testified at the trial that company officials had used intimidation, even threatening to close the plant rather than deal with anything but a company union. It was admitted that the executive committees of the company unions were paid $25 a month each by the company. Judge Nields held that such payment was entirely proper, and refused to set aside all evidence of coercion and intimidation by writing a sweeping testimonial to the head of the privileged company and to company unions into his decision.

Low Wages Upheld

Two days later, Judge Charles I. Dawson, in the Federal court at Louisville, upheld the privilege of paying low wages as a "citizen's property right", and granted an injunction against enforcement of the Bituminous Coal Code.

"The citizens of this country," said Judge Dawson, "have the right to conduct their business without unconstitutional interference or regulation by governmental authority. That interference constitutes an injury to the property rights of the citizen; and that interference takes the form of exacting wages greater than the citizen is willing to pay."

In New York, Judge Salvatore A. Cotillo enjoined the picketing of retail stores by Local 167 of the Retail Suit, Cloak, Dress and Fur Sales People's Union.

"Unionization of labor," he said, "in its most effective form of the closed shop should be restricted to those fields in which the services of the employes have some degree of standardization, such as bricklayers, longshoremen, chauffeurs. To compel the selection of trades people to depend on the whim of a labor union would result in the strangulation of all effort on the part of such stores."

Judge Cotillo cited the Encyclopedia Britannica as authority for this division of workers into white collar workers and manual workers. The right of the latter has been granted by the Court of Appeals of New York, in a different case, specifically upheld the right of white collar workers to picket.

The two cases in the Federal courts will be carried to the Supreme Court of the United States with all possible speed. They have been severely criticised by labor leaders.

"It is inconceivable," said William Green, president of the A. F. of L., speaking of the Nields decision, "that either labor or public opinion will support the extension of corporate power and control over the economic life of the workers through the establishment and maintenance of company unions."

Judge Dawson's coal decision was commented on by President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers as follows:

"This decision reflects the hostile attitude that Congress may regulate trade practices, but has no authority to protect labor."

Rhode Island Textile Employers Favor Retention of NRA

The principle of wage differentials as between mills in the South as compared with those in Northern States, was the subject of vigorous presentations made last week in Providence by the Rhode Island Textile Association. The hearing was held before the special labor commission in the textile industry.

Amongst other factors given as reasons why to save the textile industry from destruction, were lessened taxes, and the repeal of the cotton processing tax, which is levying an unbearable toll upon the cotton mills of New England.

Continuation of the NRA was advised, and to abandon that policy now, it was contended, would mean chaos in the textile industry. Protection against cheaply made foreign goods was also demanded.

Horace A. Riviere, vice president of the United Textile Workers of America, spoke on the subject of wage differentials in Northern and Southern mills, and contended for the principle of equal wages in both fields. A communication dealing with the textile situation in general from Thomas F. McMahon, president of the U. T. W. of A., was read by Mr. Riviere.

Economic Change May Make Laws Invalid, Supreme Court Says

Washington, D. C., Mar. 12 (ILNS)—Speaking through Mr. Justice Brandeis, the United States Supreme Court last week declared that economic changes may make unconstitutional laws that were valid when passed; and that public orders, to private individuals or corporations, which once were proper, can become oppressive and confiscatory through changing conditions.

The Tennessee State Highway Commission ordered the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway to build an underpass to separate grades in the village of Lexington, where a projected highway will cross the main line of the railroad, and to pay half the costs of the work.

The railroad resisted the order, claiming that it was arbitrary and that the law providing for such action was unconstitutional because it was taking property without due process of law.

The state court which considered the case held with the railroad. The state supreme court reversed this finding, and refused to inquire into the facts which, the railroad claimed, made the levy oppressive. The U. S. Supreme Court has reversed the state supreme court and sent the case back for the latter tribunal to take evidence on the facts and make findings based upon them.

With the mass of facts which appear always to be at his disposal on any subject, Justice Brandeis gives figures showing how this particular railroad has been almost strangled by the highways. The figures are too long to quote, but 60 per cent of the freight traffic and about 90 per cent of the passenger traffic which the road had in 1920 is gone now; probably much of it gone to the highways.

The decision is of enormous importance in showing that the Supreme Court adheres to the old maxim, best stated by the late Justice Holmes, that law is based on evidence, not on logic. The instant comment of legal circles in Washington and New York was that this clears the way for the Supreme Court to uphold many of the New Deal policies now being assailed, on the ground that laws and usages must change with conditions.

Head of Pulp and Paper Industry Favors Collective Bargaining

New York City, Mar. 6 (AFL).—Adam Wilkinson, representing employers in New England, and R. B. Wolf, representing employers in the Northwest, in addresses before the 20th annual meeting of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry here, declared that it was preferable to consider labor conditions by the medium of collective bargaining than to run the risk of having labor disputes injected into politics. Declaring that the New Deal had won the imagination of labor, Mr. Wilkinson said:

"It is far better for us in the industry to conduct negotiations with responsible heads of the labor groups than to refuse and have the entire question become a political one." He added that Section 7 (a) of the National Industrial Recovery Act "may prove to be not an unmixed blessing."

"OUR ONLY MARKET IS OUR PEOPLE," IS FORD'S ANSWER TO WOLL, IN REFERRING TO HIGH WAGE SYSTEM

In a communication addressed to Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, in answer to an inquiry as to how the automobile manufacturers felt towards the payment of high wages to workers, and in which he told of the movement started by manufacturers to bring about decreased wages, Henry Ford wrote as follows:

Dear Sir:

"In reply to your recent letter may I say at once that I have in nowise changed my mind concerning high wages. Unless the worker in American industry is enabled to use and enjoy the products of industry, the natural balance cannot be maintained. Our only market is our people. I believe that wages will continue to go higher not as a result of politics or from purely humanitarian motives, but as the result of the kind of management that will enable men to earn more.

"You understand, of course, that inexperienced or short sighted management does not create the conditions under which men can earn more. Industry cannot pay men what they do not earn, but it can create methods by which men, with the same effort, or even less, can earn more and so receive more.

"In my opinion, absentee ownership in industry is one of the chief obstacles to higher wages; for two reasons. It places an extra tax on an industry in the form of unearned dividends, and it will not or cannot give the same ownership that is natural to the name of the business and product can give.

"Industry as yet is in a crude stage, but the opportunities for skilled employment will tend steadily to increase rather than decrease. As industry advances—and that is the only direction in which it can go—the number of skilled men employed in making things which people use to earn their living, will greatly increase. That is the incentive to skilful work will become a larger factor. In these classifications wages will go to higher rates than we have yet seen with consequent increases for men in the lower classifications.

"I do not believe that production costs are ever really decreased by reducing wages, but I have known higher wages usually to bring lower costs.

"Trusting that this answers your question, I am,

"Yours sincerely,

"HENRY FORD."

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